



GOVERNING COUNCIL 38th SESSION

Port Vila, Vanuatu
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AGENDA ITEM	TITLE
10	REGIONAL INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK
10.3	Implementation
10.3.1	ICT Outreach

Purpose of Paper

To present to Council the implementation plan for the rationalisation of ICT Outreach function of SOPAC into SPC, based on part a) of the decision of the joint SOPAC, SPC and SPREP governing bodies on the regional institutional framework, as articulated below:

a) With respect to the ICT Outreach Programme of SOPAC, the joint meeting of the governing bodies:

- (i) *endorsed the integration of the ICT Outreach Programme of SOPAC into the Digital Strategy component of the proposed, new division of Economic Development, Energy, Transport, Infrastructure and Communication of SPC from January 2010;*
- (ii) *noted that the final implementation plan will be presented to the meetings of the respective governing bodies of SPC and SOPAC in October 2009; and*
- (iii) *noted further that the GIS and remote sensing functions constitute an integral part of the core scientific work of SOPAC and will transfer to SPC from January 2010.*

Background and Comments

Following the joint meeting and decision of governing bodies of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP in July 2009, SOPAC and SPC have worked closely together to draft an implementation plan for the integration of the ICT Outreach Programme of SOPAC into the Communication/ICT programme of the proposed, new *Division of Economic Development Division (DED)* of the SPC in direct response to Part a) (i) and (ii) of the joint Councils' decision.

Key features of the DED and its Communication/ICT programme are outlined below, with more detailed information to be found in the implementation plan which is attached as Annex 1.

- The new DED will be based in Suva, Fiji and will bring together four key drivers for economic development and growth (energy, transport, infrastructure and communications/ICT) (refer Annex 2 for proposed organizational chart).
- SPC intends for the DED to be operational by January 2010.
- The DED will be headed by a Director supported from core SPC resources.

- The communication/ICT programme will be headed by a Programme Coordinator, as it is, by comparison with the other components of DED, smaller in size at least in the immediate term.
- The communication/ICT programme's primary focus will be to lead and coordinate implementation of the Regional Digital Strategy. In addition the programme will be directly responsible for implementing some of the key priorities and initiatives that are identified under the digital strategy.
- Additional resources will be required to enhance benefits to members from the regional energy, transport and communication/ICT sector programmes.
- The implementation plan does not include any reference to SOPAC's functions and services in GIS and remote sensing as these will remain with the SOPAC Division of the SPC (refer decision part a) (iii)).

In relation to part a) (ii) of the joint decisions, CRGA and Conference of the SPC will be considering the implementation plan for the proposed new arrangements in early October 2009. The decisions relating to the ICT Outreach programme of SOPAC and the proposed, new DED will be circulated to Council.

Recommendation

With respect to the ICT Outreach Programme of SOPAC, Council is requested to:

- Consider and approve the implementation plan for the transfer of the ICT Outreach functions of SOPAC into the Division of Economic Development of the SPC, acknowledging that additional resources will be required to enhance benefits to members from the regional energy, transport and communication/ICT sector programmes and noting that GIS and remote sensing functions of SOPAC will remain with the core SOPAC work programme.
- Consider passing a resolution providing for the drafting of a legal agreement between SOPAC and SPC governing the transfer of ICT Outreach functions from SOPAC to SPC.

ANNEX 1

**Regional Institutional Framework (RIF)
Rationalisation of SOPAC Functions into SPREP and SPC**

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Regional Institutional Framework (RIF) Rationalisation of SOPAC Functions into SPREP and SPC

Implementation Schedule

Rationalisation of SOPAC ICT Outreach Programme (Recommendation 1)

Background

This paper outlines the proposed schedule to implement that part of the summary of decisions of the joint meeting¹ of the governing bodies of SOPAC, SPC and SPREP relating to the ICT outreach functions of SOPAC.

With respect to the ICT Outreach Programme of SOPAC, the joint meeting of the governing bodies:

- (i)*** *Endorsed the integration of the ICT Outreach Programme of SOPAC into the Digital Strategy component of the proposed, new division of Economic Development, Energy, Transport, Infrastructure and Communication of SPC from January 2010;*
- (ii)*** *Noted that the final implementation plan will be presented to the meetings of the respective governing bodies of SPC and SOPAC in October 2009; and*
- (iii)*** *Noted further that the GIS and remote sensing functions constitute an integral part of the core scientific work of SOPAC and will transfer to SPC from January 2010.*

Consequent to the joint meeting and its decisions this implementation schedule is tabled for consideration and finalisation by the governing bodies of SOPAC and SPC at their meetings in October 2009.

Objectives

This paper outlines the implementation schedule in response to the above-mentioned decision. The implementation schedule focuses on essential elements required to effectively realize the Pacific Regional Digital Strategy. It describes:

1. The necessary core structure that will provide the appropriate, minimum mix of skills through the integration of the ICT outreach functions of SOPAC and SPC, that will be required to optimise delivery of the *Pacific Regional Digital Strategy* toward achieving sustainable development of member countries and territories.
2. The necessary links and synergies between the core ICT structure with the wider programme of the SPC as well as externally with donors and development partners. This acknowledges that the proposed Communication Programme within the Division of Economic Development values collaboration and cooperation. It will draw resources from SPC's ICT corporate support in delivering ICT interventions to member countries.

This implementation schedule should be read and considered in concert with papers prepared for and the decisions taken by the Pacific Leaders (2005, 2008), Forum Communication Ministers Meeting (February 2006), ITU Pacific ICT Ministers Forum (February 2009), the Joint Meeting of Governing Councils of SOPAC, SPREP and SPC (July 2009)

¹ The joint meeting of governing bodies of SPC, SOPAC and SPREP was held on 7 and 8 July 2009 to decide on the new regional institutional arrangements in respect of the rationalisation of SOPAC functions into SPC and SPREP.

1. *Endorsement of the Pacific Region Digital Strategy as an essential component of the Pacific Plan by the Pacific Forum Island Leaders Meeting, October 2005, Papua New Guinea. Refer Annex 1*
2. *Forum Communication Ministers Meeting - Wellington Declaration, Wellington, New Zealand, 28-30 March 2006. Refer Annex 2*
3. *Further endorsement of the Pacific Region Digital Strategy by Forum Leaders at their Niue meeting – Communiqué, August 2008, Alofi, Niue*
4. *ITU Pacific ICT Ministers Forum – Communiqué, February 2009, Nukualofa, Tonga. Refer to Annex 3.*
5. *Implementing the decision by Forum leaders and the respective governing bodies of SOPAC, SPREP and SPC on the rationalisation of SOPAC programmes into SPC and SPREP, a joint paper by CEOs of SOPAC, SPREP and SPC, 1 July 2009 (37 pgs).*
6. *Joint Meeting of SOPAC, SPC AND SPREP Governing Bodies on the Regional Institutional Framework (RIF), (Tradewinds Convention Centre, Suva, Fiji, 7-8 July 2009) – Summary of Decisions (3 pgs).*

Regional ICT Programme

The intended, initial structure for the Communication Programme to be incorporated within SPC’s proposed new Division – Economic Development, Energy, Transport, Infrastructure and Communication is illustrated below (refer Figure 1). It takes into account the current resources and functions of the SOPAC and SPC Outreach Programmes. It also reflects proposed positions from the EU ACP ICT Access for the Poor project to commence inception in the last quarter of 2009.

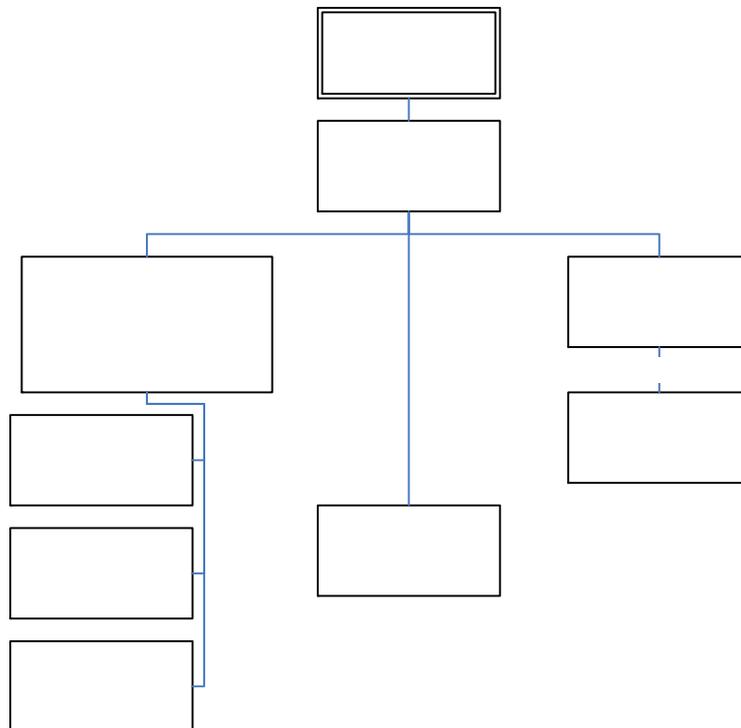


Figure 1: Proposed, new Communication Programme Structure

The Pacific Plan endorsed by Leaders in 2005 included the Pacific Regional Digital Strategy (PRDS). The PRDS was further endorsed by Leaders and ICT identified as a key area for Pacific (2008 Leaders Communiqué Para 5) and in Annex 2 “reaffirmed the

continuing importance of information and communications technology as a regional priority”. In outlining the implementation plan for the PRDS, the Forum Communication Ministers in 2006 came out with the Wellington Declaration (WD) which highlighted obstacles and challenges to ICT development in the Pacific but also identified the following priority focus areas, to address these challenges:

- ICT Capacity building – Need coherent and relevant capacity building programme that addresses the severe lack of ICT skills and expertise in the Pacific;
- e-Government – To ensure a more productive civil service that provide better services to the public and contribute to good governance, transparency and accountability.
- ICT Policy – Need a coordinated approach and conducive environment to ICT development.
- Connectivity - With no or limited access to ICT the impact of the above areas will be far less effective.

The Communication Sector will be responsible for delivering on the mentioned priority areas outlined in the PRDS, Wellington Declaration (2006), and the Forum Communication Ministers Communiqué (2009). Figure 2 shows how these priority areas will be supported by the organisational structure.

Over the years SPC and SOPAC have established partnerships with various development partners as well as regional and international organisations. Some recent examples include RICS, UNAPCICT (Academy Training Programme) and ISOC (Internet Awareness). Figure 3 demonstrates the comparative advantage of the various development partners and the areas for cooperation and collaboration.

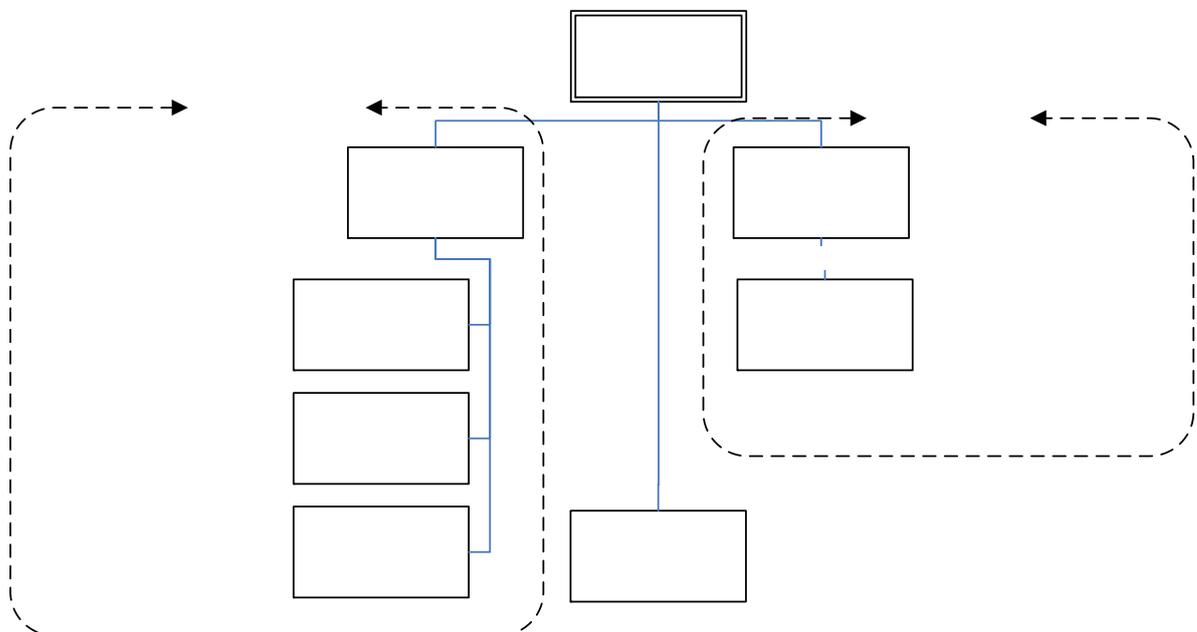


Figure 2: Areas of responsibility

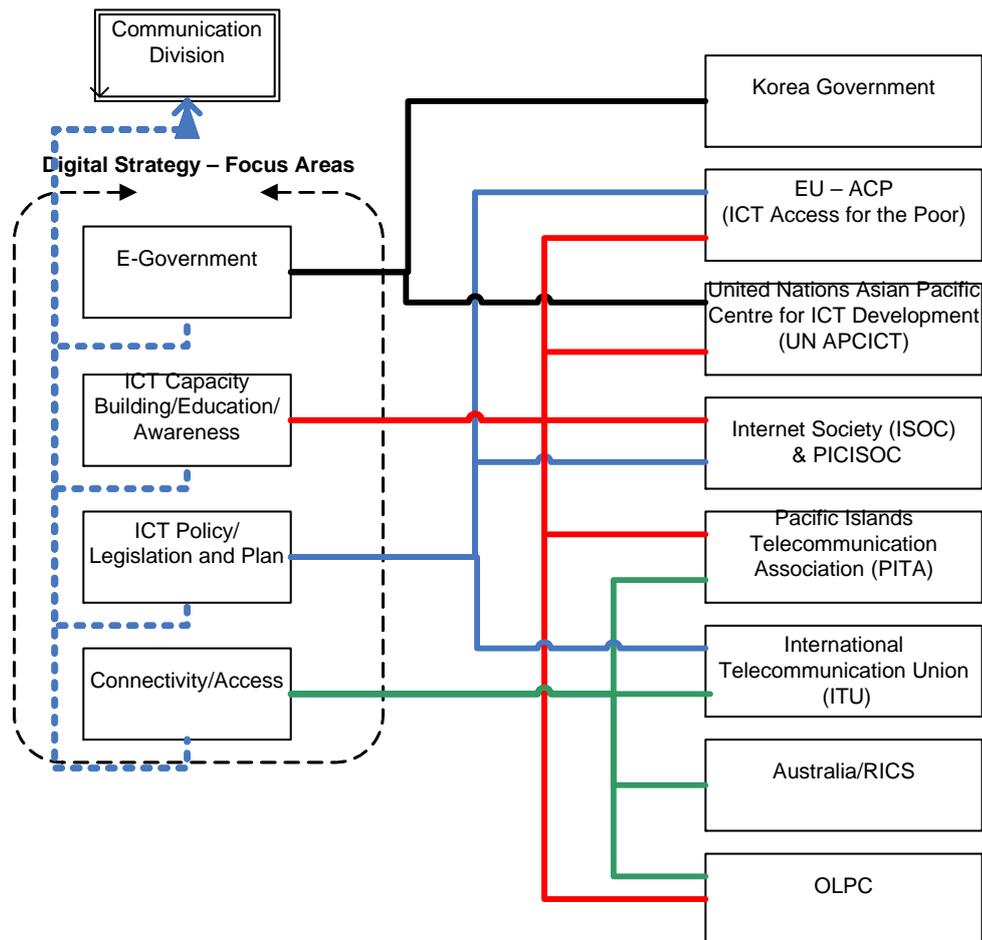


Figure 3: Focus Areas and Development Partners

Administrative and Financial Matters

Administrative

The transfer of the SOPAC ICT Outreach component into the planned new SPC Division of Economic Development, Energy, Transport, Infrastructure and Communications (EDETIC), marks a new and very important step in providing better ICT services to Pacific island countries and territories. While it is important to minimize potential disruptions to existing initiatives it is more important that this transfer process is thoroughly discussed and analysed to ensure potential synergies are explored, duplication of activities, if these exist, are eliminated and the limited capacity (both financial and human resources) are better utilised. Therefore a strategic and responsive organisational structure will need to be established to optimise delivery of ICT services into member States.

SPC - A significant proportion of current resources in SPC for ICT are dedicated and directed toward ensuring effective and efficient ICT services to support core programmes of its technical Divisions. Its outreach services are through facilitation roles with the following regional initiatives of SPIN, RICS and the OLPC.

SOPAC - has been providing its member countries, through its Outreach component, ICT technical and policy assistance in development of ICT Policy, e-Government, and ICT Capacity Building. While the SOPAC Outreach component covers a wide range of activities its dedicated technical advisory capacity currently comprises one full-time equivalent Adviser level position. To address delivery demands for ICT outreach actions

SOPAC draws technical assistance and support from staff that sit within the ICT services area contracted principally to provide support to ensure effective delivery of its core technical services into member countries. It is envisaged that this ICT Adviser Outreach will be transferred to SPC's new proposed Division for Economic Development.

SOPAC has recently secured resources from the EU-ACP @ICT Facility to implement the initiative "ICT Access for the Poor". Inception for the project will commence in the last quarter 2009. The project includes technical assistance allocations to recruit additional staff. Consequently, these positions are shown in the proposed organisational structure in Figures 1 and 2. Notwithstanding these new positions, the Communication Sector can not adequately address all the focus areas shown in the Figures 2-3 above based on the current levels of human and financial resources available under the existing SPC and SOPAC programmes in this important area. For example the provision of capacity support actions is essential for strengthening ICT access and use in member countries. Therefore, a Trainer or Training Coordinator is viewed as being an essential core position of the Division if the region is to address issues relating to ICT capacity and competencies across government and, as a natural extension of that ensure coordination of ICT capacity building programmes within the core functions of the SPC (such as health, education and agriculture) are adequately addressed as well.

It is imperative that the objective for the rationalisation of SOPAC's ICT Outreach functions into the SPC result in strengthened and improved ICT services to members.

Financial

It is envisaged that SOPAC's ICT Outreach budget will be transferred to the proposed Division of Economic Development. This should include the funding contribution from EU ACP @ICT initiative - *ICT Access for the Poor*. [will this require approval of UNACPICT] Under this project there are budgetary allocations for up to three professional and technical officer positions for a two year period. The budget for the RICS and OLPC project should also be transferred to the Communication Programme of the proposed new Division of Economic Development. Provided that the RICS coordinator position remains as is currently provided for within the SPC budget the position for an ICT Trainer (or Training Coordinator) would be a core position against which financial resources will need to be secured

The budgetary allocations from the EU ACP project do provide for some operational expenses, however in the main these resources target tangible deliverables into the participating P-ACP States. With secured resources for the RICS and OLPC project initiatives covering the priorities for increasing connectivity the remaining priority areas of e-Government and ICT Policy development will need some attention and effort in respect of mobilising necessary resources to deliver these. In this regard negotiations are underway to secure some assistance from Korea government for e-Government and ITU for ICT Policy and Legislation and these discussions will need to continue with the mentioned partners.

Annex 1

PACIFIC REGIONAL DIGITAL STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) are universally acknowledged as powerful tools for development. ICTs are not only essential to social development and economic growth, but are critical to the development of good governance. They can also be effective vehicles for the maintenance of security and are vital for sustainable development. In the Pacific, ICTs are the key to ending the 'tyranny of distance'.

Few inhabitants of the Pacific Island Countries are able to enjoy the benefits of access to telecommunications and the Internet. Those with access are faced with slower speeds and much higher costs than in the developed world. There is also inequality in ICT access, with women, youth and disadvantaged being amongst the most excluded groups. However, ICTs are significant tools for social and economic empowerment. In order to make good use of ICTs to foster education, health and administration and to improve communications, a rapid expansion of telecommunications and a reduction in their costs is urgently required throughout the Pacific.

The Pacific has problems caused by large distances, small scale and scattered populations and markets, and a low level of investments in telecommunications and human resources. All these problems can be addressed and the development of ICTs accelerated, by selection of appropriate mechanisms for cooperation, market integration and provision of services on a regional basis.

Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) are a significant and vital sector in the Pacific economy. ICTs have the potential to globally expand the markets for SMEs and shrink their costs, thus removing their isolation-related problems. To utilize this potential requires improved financial access to ICTs, more access to customers within the region, and better legal and financial environments. The ability of people to develop ICTs and use them, at both the business and consumer ends, needs significant improvement.

Telecommunications and ICT make up one of the most dynamic and fast changing technological sectors in the global market. International experience demonstrates that open, competitive markets and stable regulatory regimes, which encourage a vibrant private sector, are essential if the powerful economic and social benefits of telecommunications and ICTs are to be felt.

In this context, Pacific Leaders have requested that a regional Digital Strategy be developed as an essential component of the Pacific Plan.

Numerous studies have highlighted both the potential of, and impediments to, 'ICTs for every Pacific Islander'. The Communication Action Plan (CAP) and Pacific Islands Information and Communications Technologies Policy and Strategic Plan (PIIPP) have recently made clear recommendations on actions required for ICTs to reach potential in the region. However, countries have been less than successful in following these recommendations due to challenges such as scale, institutional capacity and isolation.

The challenge by Leaders to develop new regional institutional arrangements, through the Pacific Plan and the dynamic technological and commercial environments of the 21st

century, offers countries in the region fresh opportunities. They can pool existing resources more effectively and accelerate the introduction of infrastructure that would support the use of ICTs in education, health, trade and commerce, security, governance and meet the social needs of the communities.

The regional Digital Strategy based on the CAP and PIIPP, establishes the following priorities:

- improving access to communications technology
- reducing costs
- establishing higher bandwidth to the global ICT 'backbone'
- removing inappropriate regulatory environments in order to foster higher levels of investment
- strengthening ICT skills

Broadcasting, which simultaneously uses local, regional and global content, has been a largely neglected area of ICTs in the Pacific. Newer technologies, through the Internet, audio streaming, community FM broadcasting and digital satellite radio, offer means to better achieve coverage, improve the content in broadcasting and to improve on independent, traditional and community media. So far, countries in the region have been unable to fully utilize this cost-effective mass ICT with its potential to provide high quality education, health and other services, as well as entertainment. The digital strategy aims to expand the opportunities that convergence and digitalization offer to broadcasting services through private, Non State Agencies (NSAs) and government channels.

In the Pacific, with its range of scale and other diversity, there is a demand for thinking globally while acting locally. The essence of the digital strategy will be identifying those areas where synergies exist – in regulation, market or standards - and promoting regional solutions, while identifying the needs for local action and providing support to local agencies

REGIONAL PRINCIPLES ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ICT SERVICES

Regional principles recognise the above and also that:

- The provision of reliable, competitive and low-priced telecommunication and ICT services are crucial to the sustainable social and economic development of Forum Island Countries;
- The Pacific is hampered by large distances, small markets and scattered populations; and
- Forum Island countries have limited technical capacity.

The following priorities are central to improving the efficiency, effectiveness, provision and sustainability of telecommunications and ICT services:

1. Increased efforts should be made to implement regional, sub-regional or multi-country solutions to problems in the telecommunications and ICT sector through, for example:
 - a) The management of regional public goods such as spectrum;
 - b) Regulatory regimes;

- c) A regional interconnection regime;
 - d) Harmonized laws;
 - e) Human resources development; and
 - f) Liberalization of the regulatory environment.
2. A central responsibility of government to telecommunications should be in establishing and administering independent regulatory authorities.
3. Telecommunications and ICT services should be open to competition where possible.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- a) Removal of regulatory barriers to domestic and international providers to allow competition in international voice, domestic fixed line, mobile, broadband, data, internet, satellite and other services; and
 - b) Transparent and competitive tendering practices within a well-regulated environment, where it is deemed markets are too small to sustain more than one operator; and
 - c) Removal of regulatory barriers to the unbundling of services.
4. Telecommunications and ICT services should, wherever possible, operate on a sustainable commercial basis, with consideration of the following:
- a) Where appropriate this should include corporatisation and/or privatization of government-owned services;
 - b) Where telecommunications and ICT providers remain in government ownership and are required to perform commercial activities, they should be adequately capitalized;
 - c) Service levels should reflect demand and price should reflect the cost of delivery;
 - d) Where subsidies are judged to be necessary to fulfill declared social obligations, these should be open and transparent; and
 - e) Where appropriate, legislated monopolies should be removed with a view to increasing competition.
5. Adherence to principles of good governance is crucial to telecommunications and ICT services. This includes, but is not limited to:
- a) Accountability and transparency in financial management, strategic planning, investment decisions, awarding contracts and board appointments;
 - b) Clear lines of responsibility for shareholders, boards and management; and
 - c) Accessing and acting upon professional advice, including that given in relation to decisions on infrastructure.
6. Donor support should be provided to Pacific Island Countries and Territories to assist the implementation of telecommunications sector reforms, conditional on a demonstrated commitment to the above principles.

OBJECTIVES

The Digital Strategy recognizes the role ICTs will play in the region's progress in meeting the Millennium Development Goals. It supports the processes outlined in the World Summit on Information Society. It also recognizes that the adoption of the Regional Principles on Telecommunications and ICT Services will help to foster a vibrant, dynamic, market driven telecommunications sector that will encourage private sector participation, infrastructure development and lower-cost services.

The objectives of the Digital Strategy are to:

- a) Encourage policies and regulations that facilitate development of the sector and are appropriate to the people and the cultures of the Pacific
- b) Encourage construction of domestic telecommunications and information infrastructure
- c) Promote a competition-driven environment
- d) Encourage business/private sector investment and participation
- e) Intensify cooperation among member countries
- f) Narrow the gap in information infrastructure between advanced and developing countries and urban and rural areas
- g) Ensure easy access to information through ICTs that strengthens cooperation between stakeholders, fosters good governance, develops the private sector and improves service delivery.
- h) Promote full and equal participation of women and other marginalized groups in ICTs through mainstreaming gender and equity perspectives into ICT policy and programmes.
- i) Ensure open and non-discriminatory access to public networks for all information providers and users in accordance with domestic laws and regulations.
- j) Ensure universal access to public services in telecommunications
- k) Promote creation of local content, which reflects the cultural and linguistic diversity of the region
- l) Ensure the protection of privacy, data security and intellectual property rights including cultural property
- m) Ensure ICTs will be used to inform and connect Pacific Island populations and that they will benefit from flexible and appropriate education and training

STRATEGY

To meet these objectives and realize the potential of ICTs in the Pacific, the approach of the Regional Digital Strategy is based on three Pillars:

Pillar 1 - Country level

The Digital Strategy acknowledges that action must take place at the country level to result in change and that every country in the region is different, not only in demography, geography and socio-economic development, but also in its stage of applications of ICTs. The cornerstone of the Digital Strategy is a strong country focus - acknowledging differences and building on commonality and consensus at the regional level.

An ICT country strategy will develop and sustain strong country leadership of, and stakeholder involvement in, ICT development. ICTs are typically found in the private sector, but their environment is largely created by Governments institutions. This is through: laws and regulations, not only of telecoms but commerce, trade and governance in general; the licenses; uses of IT and e-government; collection of data; and finally, and most critically, in ensuring the human capacity to develop, operate and use ICTs is developed and maintained. The importance of ensuring harmonization between the availability of the tools and the capacity to use them cannot be overstated. E-government, e-commerce or e-training will fail if the rural populations cannot access the Internet or do not have the computer literacy to exploit the potential.

Under Pillar I, a number of programs reflecting the processes necessary to develop ICTs at the national level, but using regional capacity, are identified for development. In addition, bilateral support, which is already in place in many countries, will be promoted by identification of issues, assistance with proposals and, where applicable, development partners' assistance in supporting the activities.

The key programs are:

- Identification of and support to leaders and development of ICT Steering Committees and other entities (local user groups, interest groups, etc) - to develop policy, plans and programs of activities, ensuring the integration of national ICT plans into sector and Ministry plans and ensuring gender equity in representation on these issues.
- Development of objectives - to set key policy parameters.
- Development of measures - to assist in the gathering of statistics and the setting of development targets.
- Expansion of telecommunications access to rural and remote areas - through assistance with establishing Universal Service Funding arrangements, and development of mechanisms to reduce costs of access to the Internet and telecommunications in general.
- Particular emphasis on government delivery of health and education services.
- Development of human resources – through, for example, schools, vocational training and distance education centres, with attention to addressing gender and other areas of inequity in access.

Pillar 2 - Regional level

Regional synergies will be exploited to develop the environment and market for ICTs and overcome the liabilities of scale and isolation. Cooperation in the use of scarce resources in regulatory areas, applications of technology and human resources development will be developed. Opportunities will be taken to harmonize legislation and regulatory environments and to facilitate the introduction of new services.

Arrangements between the various Pacific ICT-related agencies will be critically reviewed to improve interagency cooperation and effectiveness.

The relationship between the public and private sectors in ICTs will be strengthened to ensure the policy, regulatory and support environments are conducive to investments in infrastructure. Relationships between the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), the Pacific Islands Internet Society, the Pacific Chambers of Commerce and the Regional Private Sector Organisation (RPSO) will be strengthened.

In addition, the use of ICTs by regional institutions in the conduct of their business will improve sharing, organizational efficiency and individual productivity. A number of CROP agencies are actively engaged in regional and national ICT activities and the emphasis will be on improving their coordination and promoting regional solutions to support country processes, with particular regard to ensuring the sustainability of the mechanisms put in place.

The key programs are:

- ICT leadership - including research, governance, advocacy, consulting, regional planning and coordination, promotion of best practice, equity in representation and statistics.
- ICT coordination and harmonization – through e-government and e-commerce templates and regional network issues.
- Review, development and promotion of interaction and usage of ICTs within CROP and to countries.
- Regional approaches to ICT education - through distance learning and virtual communities and community/traditional media forms.
- Re-examination of the state of broadcasting in the region – to upgrade both content and delivery in line with community needs and technologies.

Pillar 3 - Global level

The Pacific region, while having unique attributes, is part of the global ICT community.

Major changes to the global ICT environment are taking place as a result of convergence. Global governance of ICTs is at the crossroads. The Digital Strategy will ensure Pacific ICTs will fully benefit from global initiatives such as the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) international trade programmes, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It will make provision for the voice of Pacific people to be heard in global technical standards, donor, development and commercial fora. It will identify key mechanisms to ensure that Pacific countries benefit from global information resources and that global communities are aware of the unique issues and needs of the Pacific. Finally, the Digital Strategy will support regional cohesion and recognition of the critical role of ICTs in gender issues and give a voice to, and represent interests of, the wider community.

The key programs are:

- Representation of unique Pacific issues, needs, attributes to Asia Pacific and global fora.

- Monitoring, analyzing and assessing global ICT trends - to develop them on behalf of the Pacific countries and support their introduction. There will be particular emphasis on disaggregated data and gender analysis to ensure equitable access and implementation

THE CONTRACT

Implementing the Digital Strategy will be a collective dynamic endeavour between agencies, donors, countries and stakeholders so that focus, energies, resources, and momentum exploit ICTs potential in the Pacific to the utmost. The initial actions will be centred around the following contract but activity is expected to increase rapidly as ICTs spread around the Pacific. It is likely that as ICTs become, for example, the foundation of health or education services, that sector specific activity will accelerate. The initial contract will comprise:

- 1. A reaffirmation by the Leaders of the principles and actions outlined in the CAP and PIIPP and a declaration that governments will pursue the roadmap that is contained in these two Regional Agreements.** In turn, the rewards for this commitment to open markets for private sector investment, and to promote, educate and create the environment for ICTs to leverage efforts in every sector of the economy, will flow on to the whole Pacific community, which will be able to use its resources to underwrite the process in a concentrated, cohesive and coordinated manner.
- 2. The establishment of a Pacific Islands ICT Council (PIIC) to drive ICT development and coordination.** The Council will include representatives of the present CROP ICT Working Group, PITA, PICISOC, and the users and private sector through the Regional Private Sector Organization (RPSO). The Council will report annually to a meeting of the Ministers responsible for ICTs, that will provide the Council with strategic direction and approve its budget. It is envisioned the members, agencies and donors will share information resources, coordinate programmes underpinned by professional research, coordinate the processes at regional level and provide guidance and a centre for the delivery of regional projects, particularly in policy and governance. While much of the work of the Council will be conducted electronically, and if necessary on an ad hoc basis, it will meet formally twice a year, concurrently with the two major private sector organizations, PITA and PICISOC, to ensure maximum user and private sector involvement. The Council will be guided, particularly in the early stage, by the outcomes of the studies under 3, 4, 5 6, and 7. The Council will be supported by a small secretariat, hosted initially within the Forum Secretariat, that will provide the regional focal point for ICT matters. The Council will draw on the skills and resources of the CROP Agencies in technology, governance, statistics and commercial skills to sponsor and coordinate assistance to the governments of the region in developing and implementing ICT policies, legislation, regulation and, where appropriate, the regional ICT capacity. The Council will initially be funded by donors, but will aim to attain self sufficiency within three years.
- 3. Investigation of the potential for regional solutions in the policy and regulation of telecommunications and ICTs in the Pacific.** This study will identify opportunities to share resources in regulation and progress Regional or common legislation, initially in areas such as e-commerce, where the present laws are inadequate. Later, work will be extended into central ICT areas.
- 4. An investigation into where and how regional network solutions might be effective in the Pacific.** The CROP WG will join with the PITA initiative to investigate

feasible regional satellite options and telecommunications emergency and disaster responses, to ensure that regional security, and national as well as commercial issues are addressed. While connection arrangements are largely a matter for operators, the issue of costs to users and the large capital outlays required for new cable and satellite networks, reliability and bandwidth, are of such regional and national significance that there is a place for a regional role in development of Pacific access networks.

5. A Regional study on the needs and mechanisms to satisfy the huge and increasing gap in Human Resources available to support ICTs in the Pacific. It will focus particularly on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), schools (including, most critically, teachers) and users. It will identify common solutions such as Distance Education over the Internet and how the private sector can be supported to ensure high quality and ubiquitous access to ICT education resources. The study will pay close attention to the present ICT capacity, USP's JICA funded IT centre, the recently installed PITA regional training coordinator, new UNDP, UNESCAP, vendor and commercial initiatives in ICT and develop a strategy for ensuring access to all aspects of ICT training is available throughout the Pacific. It will pay particular attention to Open and Distant Learning (ODL) approaches. The study will make recommendations on access, modalities, and quality standards.

6. A survey to ascertain the status of ICTs in every country and the existence of the foundations for a flourishing ICT sector. Aspects such as market structure, networks, access, platforms and human capacity will be surveyed, to establish benchmarks and identify needs for country specific support. On the basis of this survey a country specific programme of ICT support will be developed with the agencies. The country specific activities, based on a mutually agreed programme involving obligations on both sides, will then be collectively supported and monitored.

7. A study to review the state of broadcasting in the Pacific and how new technologies offer opportunities for regional and new national approaches to broadcasting. Broadcasting is an important cost effective and potentially ubiquitous ICT medium and is under exploited in the Pacific. New technologies such as satellite radio and digital satellite TV offer potential solutions to reach, coverage and diversity issues in the Pacific. Other technologies such as audio and TV streaming, the internet generally with convergence and low cost FM Stations offer entirely new modes of operation for both private and public sectors. In general it is fair to say the regulatory regimes, the infrastructure and the content to utilize these technologies is falling behind in the Pacific and is exacerbating the digital divide rather than reducing it.

8. A concerted effort by the CROP agencies to use ICTs to improve the effectiveness of the Agencies. The CROP Agencies are stakeholders in the broader telecommunication/ICT scene and a powerful example and leader in the installation of networks and services and necessary reforms that are an integral part of the Digital Strategy. They have a responsibility to exercise that leadership in the platforms they select and in the use of technology. The Regional Agencies will increase their coordination and be an example to the Pacific Community in the application of ICTs.

9. The Forum Secretariat and CROP Agencies to promote the use of ICTs to further the policies and objectives of all economic, social, gender, disadvantaged and political programmes so that the synergies of a Digital Pacific are realized.

NEXT STEPS

The above proposals are being developed, funding requirements examined and ongoing projects will be managed and monitored during 2006. A detailed program for this Strategy will be presented and approved at the ICT Ministers' meeting in the first half of 2006.

The Digital Strategy is an integral part of the Pacific Plan as it addresses a critical resource for the whole Pacific in that the Contract involves commitments from all parties and its implementation requires endorsement of a regional approach.

Initially the Digital Strategy will be the responsibility of the Forum Secretariat, advised by the CROP ICT WG. Once the PIIC is established it will report to the Forum annually through the Ministers. The annual meeting of ICT Ministers will be an opportunity to prepare a 'Report Card' on the Contract at regional and country level and review the potential of regional integration or further regional coordination in the pursuit of the Leaders' Vision and promise of 'ICTs for every Pacific Islander'.

Annex 2



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

FORUM INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES

MINISTERIAL MEETING

30 March 2006

Wellington, New Zealand

Wellington Declaration

We, the representatives of the Countries of the Pacific Islands Forum meeting in Wellington, New Zealand:

Noting that the *Pacific Plan* as endorsed by the Leaders' Meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in October 2005 provides a framework for strengthening regional cooperation and integration between Forum countries;

Recognising that the Leaders have requested that a regional Digital Strategy be developed as an essential component of the Pacific Plan, with a view to improving the uptake and use of information and communication technologies in the region;

Recalling that Pacific Islands Forum Communications Ministers 2002 meeting requested that a Pacific ICT survey 2002 be conducted; and

Noting that the survey identified a range of priorities including:

- Human resource development (including training, and the establishment of systems to assist HRD);
- Price reductions of telecommunications services;
- USOs/telecommunications services (telephone and Internet) to outer islands/outer lying areas;

- ICTs in education – ensuring school students have access to computers and the necessary teaching methods;
- Infrastructure development;
- Improved networked economies through e-government and e-commerce; and
- Development of policy and regulatory frameworks.

Declare that:

1. We are committed to the advancement of our countries through pursuing the four Forum goals of economic growth, sustainable development, good governance and security;
2. We recognise that information and communication technologies (ICTs), while not an end in themselves, have a key role as a basis for economic development, while also promoting and enhancing social cohesion, cultural enrichment and environmental conservation;
3. While the Pacific region faces a number of obstacles to the effective deployment of communications and other infrastructure, we acknowledge that the region also stands to benefit enormously from the effective use of ICTs;
4. Therefore we pledge to work together to support the advancement of Forum countries through improved deployment and use of ICTs in our societies.

Accordingly, ***we declare our intention that:***

The Digital Strategy be further endorsed by the Communications Ministers. Ministers considered the proposed Digital Strategy Roadmap and agreed to form a taskforce to consider implementation of key roadmap components through using a stepladder approach to ICT development.

The focus in the first year be:

- a. The taskforce should develop qualitative and quantitative indicators which will assist with establishing each country's progress towards agreed goals.
- b. Countries are encouraged to provide data and to participate in a stock-take to determine the e-readiness of their country, which would include assessment of infrastructure, services, platforms and user capacity and costs.
- c. Countries are encouraged to develop or refine their ICT Policies with particular emphasis on increasing stakeholder engagement

and provide a copy of their ICT Policy to the Forum which will arrange them to be put up on the web for use by other countries.

- d. Countries are encouraged also to provide at least e-mail capacity to Government agencies and a basic web site to gain experience in e-government.
- e. The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat approach the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other agencies such as ICANN with a view to provision of regulatory and policy capacity development.
- f. The taskforce investigate options and make recommendations to governments for a regional approach to the purchase of bulk lease or purchase arrangements for satellite capacity to increase affordability of access by remote communities.
- g. Communication Ministers recognise that greater involvement in the global information society brings both economic and social benefits and also policy and regulatory challenges. Strong national ICT policy and legislative frameworks and effective enforcement regimes are crucial to protect our citizens, our networks and our reputation from spam and other e-security threats. We recognise that these are global concerns and that regional cooperation is also necessary to strengthen capacity to deal with spam and wider Internet security concerns. We agree to develop complementary anti-spam policies and legislation at the national level and cooperate regionally to combat the growing problem of spam.

That a meeting of ICT/Communications Ministers be convened in the first half of 2007 to review progress on the Digital Strategy and to guide further developments of the Roadmap and Ladder to meet short term goals and develop long terms goals for the region.

Annex 3

Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum: Connecting the Unconnected Nuku'alofa, Kingdom of Tonga 19-20 February 2009

Background

The *Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum: Connecting the Unconnected*, organised by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and kindly hosted by the Kingdom of Tonga, took place 19-20 February 2009, at Nuku'alofa, Tongatapu. The Forum included official representation from 16 Pacific Island Countries, 11 Ministers responsible for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and 2 Prime Ministers.

Ministers noted that the objective of the Forum was to provide Forum Island Countries, and other stakeholders and partners with a platform for improving access and adoption of ICT in the Pacific region, through various projects, initiatives and commitments. In particular, an objective was to advance specific initiatives in the Pacific region, including the *Digital Strategy* and the *Wellington Declaration*, to meet the 2015 Millennium Development Goals of making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies to all.

Ministers thanked the Kingdom of Tonga for their hospitality and hosting of the event. Ministers also thanked the ITU for organizing the Forum as well as the Forum Secretariat, UNESCAP, and other partners for their assistance².

Ministerial Communiqué

We, the representatives of the Countries of the Pacific Islands Forum:
Recalling our statement in the *Wellington Declaration* that “information and communications technologies, while not an end in themselves, have a key role to play as a basis for economic development while also promoting and enhancing social cohesion, cultural enrichment and environmental conservation” and recognizing the efforts of the ICT Task Force in implementing the *Wellington Declaration*;

Acknowledging the need for a strategic approach to the development and use of these technologies that recognises the important role of the private sector and the value of building synergies with developments in other sectors, including health, education and energy;

Recalling the 2015 Millennium Development Goals of making available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communication technologies to all, and encouraging Forum Island Countries to adopt universal services strategies to reflect this goal;

² Government of Australia, JAXA, PITA, SPC, The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, SOPAC, APT, Nokia-Siemens Networks, Cobham, USP, Carnegie Mellon, ESCAP/APCICT, KrCERT/CC, and O3b.

Emphasising the importance of taking a regionally coordinated approach to ICT development;

Recognising it is important to reflect the needs of the Pacific Island Countries in the regional preparatory process for the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference to be held in 2010;

In considering five broad themes discussed at the Forum, we:

Affordable Access: Domestic and International Connectivity in the Pacific

Recognise the challenges faced by the Pacific region in improving telecommunications access due to low population densities, isolated and scattered centres of population, lack of infrastructure, and high costs of connectivity;

Recognise that cable, satellite, terrestrial wireless and mobile communications have all provided important and complementary roles in providing access to basic telecommunications and Internet-based services;

Note the range of emerging technologies offering new connectivity opportunities and reduced costs;

Welcome the assistance provided and offered by regional and international development and donor agencies;

Call for increased coordination amongst all stakeholders in the Pacific at regional, sub-regional and national levels to consolidate efforts to improve connectivity;

Direct SPC and PIFS to work with relevant regional and international agencies, including funding agencies, to rapidly progress the implementation of regional connectivity solutions that will address the communication needs of the Pacific region;

Note the positive progress of various rural connectivity initiatives³ and call on international donors to continue to support these projects until they become sustainable;

Encourage Forum Island Countries to maintain backup pathways for international connectivity;

Note that enhancing domestic coverage and international connectivity will require the implementation of appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks, which could require targeted capacity building;

Note the important role of telecentres and village-wide access schemes in delivering connectivity to rural and isolated communities. Where possible, these

³ e.g., Pacific Rural Internet Connectivity System (PACRICS)

initiatives should be implemented with an emphasis on sustainable development strategies and community business models.

Enabling Environment: Policy, Regulatory and Financial Frameworks

Acknowledge the benefits that telecommunications liberalisation has brought to the Pacific region and encourage its continuation among members;

Recognise that convergence of technologies and services has manifested itself in various forms in the Pacific region, and note that there is a need to encourage reform of existing enabling policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks in countries that embrace convergence and promote innovation and entrepreneurial initiatives;

Recognise that while the Pacific region is undergoing major reforms in the telecommunications/ICT sector, there is an urgent need to make available regulatory resources and build related telecommunications/ICT capacities in Forum Island Countries.

Recognise the assistance of development partners in regulatory reforms undertaken to date. While there are a number of related initiatives in the Pacific region focusing on policy and regulatory regional capacity building, efforts must be made to collaborate on these initiatives to improve synergies and ensure non-duplication of efforts;

Accordingly, we direct officials to work towards establishing a shared regulatory resource centre for the Forum Island Countries with a view to a proposal being submitted for consideration at the 2009 Forum Leaders Meeting. The forthcoming APT Pacific Island Policy and Regulation Forum, to be held 28 April-1 May 2009, will provide an opportunity for officials, working with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, to finalise a proposal.

Cybersecurity and ICT Applications

Recognise that there are a number of initiatives⁴ to make available low cost ICT end-user devices to Forum Island Countries and that these initiatives have brought improved access and use of ICTs, particularly for young people, and that such initiatives should be further encouraged;

Recognise that there are a number of cybersecurity-related initiatives at the regional and international levels that may offer opportunities for Forum Island Countries in related awareness raising and capacity building, the elaboration of national cybersecurity frameworks, and facilitating cooperation and coordination to address the trans-national nature of cybercrime;

Recognise that with improved telecommunications infrastructure and connectivity; and with the growing incidence of cyber threats, we call on Forum Island Countries to enact relevant legislation that would promote a safe and

⁴ e.g., One Laptop Per Child (OLPC)

secure ICT environment. This should include national cybercrime legislation, where possible harmonised both in the region and with international norms;

Note the ITU draft scoping study on the possible establishment of a Pacific Regional Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) and request that the report be circulated to Forum Island Countries for comments;

Emergency Communications and Disaster Relief/Climate Change

Recognise the importance of ICT infrastructure and applications for early-warning and mitigation systems and in the timely management of disaster response and relief;

Note the development of regionally available disaster emergency communications facilities and encourage Forum Island Countries to incorporate these facilities into existing disaster preparedness plans;

Encourage Forum Island Countries to participate in regional and international disaster management initiatives;

Encourage Forum Island Countries to make use of emerging ICT technologies that may mitigate the impact of climate change, including early warning and response systems, and energy efficient technologies.

Human Capacity Building

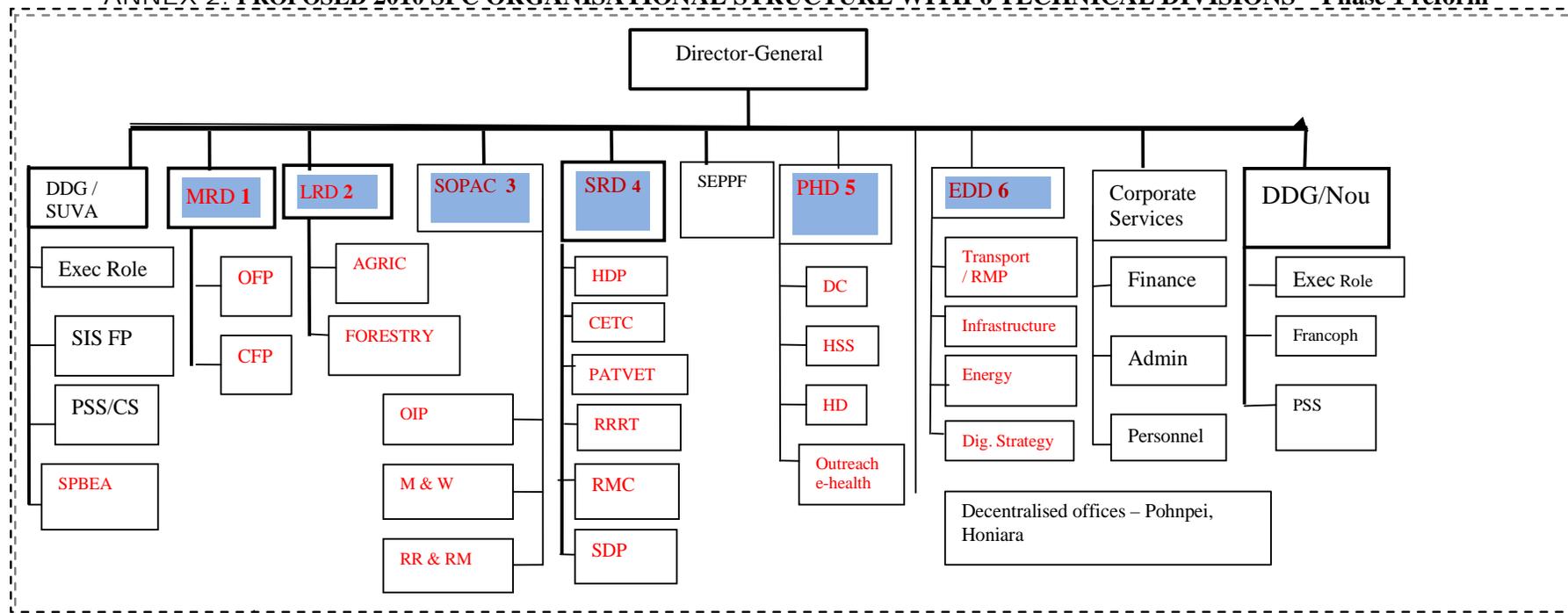
Recognise that the building of human capacity in the use and application of ICTs has been previously identified by the Pacific region as a strategic priority;

Acknowledge that a widespread lack of ICT skills and the high costs of recruiting and retaining qualified professionals continues to be a significant barrier to regional development;

Welcome the increasing number of human capacity building initiatives in the region, and request that where possible relevant agencies coordinate their activities with a view to building synergies amongst these initiatives.

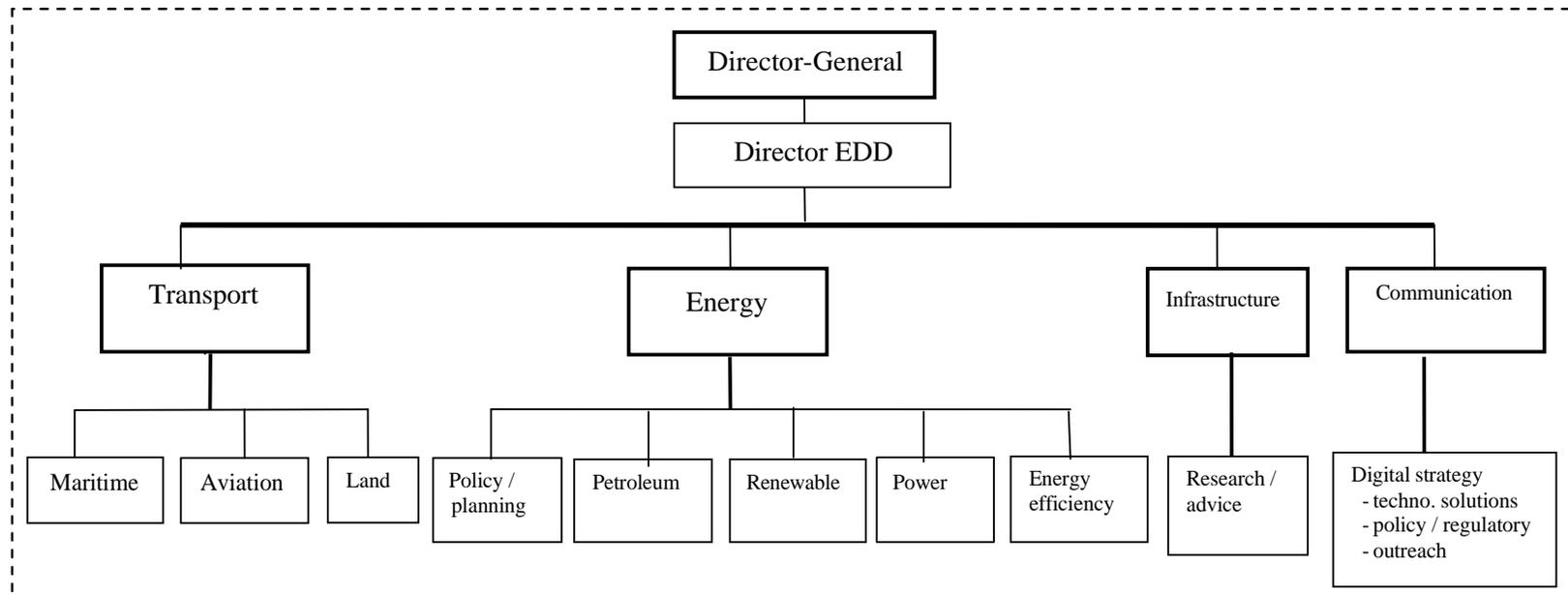
Annex 2 – Proposed Organizational Chart for SPC 2010 and for DED 2010 (from SPC/CRGA 39 (09)/ paper 6.1)

ANNEX 2: PROPOSED 2010 SPC ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE WITH 6 TECHNICAL DIVISIONS – Phase 1 reform



CFP	Coastal Fisheries Programme	MRD	Marine Resources Division (1)	SIS FP	Small Island States Focal Point
Francoph FP	Francophone Focal Point	OFP	Oceanic Fisheries Programme	CETC	Community Education & Training Centre
HDP	Human Development Programme	PHD	Public Health Division (5)	S&DP	Statistics & Demography Programme
HSS	Health Systems Strengthening	HD	Health Determinants	SEPPF	Strategic Engagement, Policy & Planning Facility
LRD	Land Resources Division (2)	PSS	Programme Support Services	SPBEA	South Pacific Board for Educational Assessment
M & W	Minerals & Water	RRRT	Regional Rights Resources Team	RR & RM	Risk Reduction & Risk Management
OIP	Oceans & Islands Programme	CRP	Community Risk Programme	W&S	Water & Sanitation
RMC	Regional Media Centre	EDD	Economic Development Division (6)	DC	Disease control (CDs/NCDs/emerging diseases)
SRD	Social Resources Division (4)	PATVET	Pac. Tech. & Vocational Educ. & Training	SOPAC	SOPAC Science & Technology Division (3)

PROPOSED STRUCTURE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION (EDD) OF SPC



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