





The Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance (PLPG) in partnership with the Pacific Islands HIV and STI Response Fund and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's Pacific ICT Outreach (PICTO) Programme hosted the Pacific Legislatures Hearing on HIV and ICT at the Novotel Hotel, Auckland International Airport in Auckland, New Zealand from 13–15 December 2011.

The three-day intensive joint hearing was made possible with the support of the HIV & STI Section and the Grant Management Unit of SPC's Public Health Division.

The Hearing was chaired by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Cook Islands, Hon. Tai Tura, deputising for Sir Geoffrey Henry KBE, Speaker of Parliament of the Cook Islands and Chair of the Executive Committee of PLPG who was unable to attend due to parliamentary commitments in Cook Islands.

The hearing brought together legislators and legislative staff from Australia, Cook

Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Tonga and Tuvalu who are currently serving or intending to serve as champions in either advocacy for the prevention of HIV and other STIs or promoting ICT as a tool for development.

The hearing focused on two distinct components – The fight against HIV and STIs and the use of ICT as a key tool for sustainable development and took the form of panel discussions and inter-active exchanges with experts in the fields of HIV and ICT.

The hearing also recognised the *Framework* for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific as a guide to developing and improving information and communication technology (ICT) services to support development, strengthen governance and improve the livelihoods of communities in the Pacific region.

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From PICTO



Siaosi Sovaleni Manager Pacific ICT Outreach Programme (PICTO) Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji

It's that time of the year when we all indulge in some R&R and heavy duty emailing, chatting, texting, browsing etc. The festive season provides an ideal time to find and reacquaint with old friends and make new friends especially with Web 2.0 tools and social networking. These tools bring with them the convenience and ease of communicating with friends and family in an affordable manner.

Having said that, there is also a flip side to this — the danger and risks of using such online tools. I am not a fear monger but I do believe that it is necessary to know the 'goods' and the 'bads' of using these tools. We have heard stories of long lost or childhood friends being reunited by facebook and even the Arab spring when Facebook and Twitter replace AK47 and bombs as the mean for revolution. But we have also heard horror stories about families losing their homes to online fraud and scams, theft, and child pornography.

With the increased use of ICT, the potential number of victims also increase and sadly our children tend to be the most vulnerable. We need to educate ICT users and especially children about appropriate use of ICT and certain 'donts' they need to be mindful of.

Some useful sites for advices and tools to use make use of internet safer include New Zealand Netsafe Inc (www. netsafe.org.nz) and Australia's Stay Smart Online (www. staysmartonline.gov.au/) Unfortunately, the Pacific countries policy and legislative frameworks on ICT (and Internet) are still weak. We only have one Pacific country that has a dedicated legislation for computer crimes while a further five countries have provisions in related legislation (such as in telecommunication) that address some aspects of cyber crimes. We also have only one country that specifically has legislation to criminalise spam. Cybercrime is a key area in the endorsed regional *Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific* (FAIDP) and a lot of partners are active in this area. A lot of efforts are now focused on ensuring that these partners work together as a team rather than in competition with each other.

Cybercrime and safety in not just a local or regional problem, it is a global problem and as such need to be tackled accordingly. We need to have local legislation that are based on best practices and criminalise the misuse of ICT. We also need to ensure that these legislation and tools are harmonised and can be used to effectively collaborate with other countries in recognition of the trans-national nature of cybercrime.

So while I encourage all of you to use ICT, especially the Internet, to catch up with friends and news, just be safe!

Happy New Year.

<u>Upcoming events</u>



Expert Group Meeting on Geo-reference Disaster Risk Management Information System in Asia-Pacific Region 15-17 February 2012 United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC) Bangkok, Thailand



The 43rd Meeting of ICANN will be held from March 11 to 16 in San Jose (Costa Rica).

e-Talanoa

The name of the newsletter 'e-talanoa' came from merging the word 'talanoa', which largely means talking / communicating / sharing in most Pacific languages, with 'e' denoting electronic. E-talanoa encapsulates the convergence of the traditional and the modern means of communication and sharing of ideas and news.

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The delegates endorsed the outcome of the Hearing on Thursday 15 December, which is summarised as follows:

The delegates:

EU ACP ICT Access for the Poor project (SPC)

- a. appreciate the assistance of EU and ACP through the ICT Access for the Poor project in supporting the Hearing and recognize the key role of the project in supporting and strengthening Pacific ACP Parliaments;
- acknowledge the work done by the Project including; ICT technical assistance, ICT capacity building, provision of online resources through www.e-pic.info, the development of the offline resources, website development, supporting members of Parliaments to participate in key regional meetings; and
- request SPC to form strategic partnerships and seek resources to continue providing this key ICT support to Pacific ACP Parliaments.

Internet

- d. note that the Internet has been the fastest growing new media in history and that the challenge is still to promote and protect the Internet;
- e. recognise the challenges that no new Internet behaviours so existing laws usually can apply (e.g. fraud, theft, illegal content), some legislation (e.g. anti-spam), policy development (e.g. e-waste disposal), self regulation encouraged (e.g. peering) erquired; and
- f. recognise the need for reconciliation of interests between telcos and ISPs may be necessary, that Governments are the key to the ongoing development of the Internet, and Pacific governments participation in the IGF desired.

Cyber Safety and Security

- acknowledge the concern about online challenges such as identify theft, online scam, loss of privacy, computer security, online bullying (cyber bullying), child sex abuse materials and pornography, and copyright infringement;
- h. recognise the need for Pacific countries to have internet safety programmes;
- acknowledge the key role that Netsafe (and cyber [smart]) plays and the strategic partnership formed by SPC with Netsafe to assist Pacific countries address online challenges and establish national internet safety programmes; and
- recognise the potential key role of The Orb for cybercrime and offence reporting and the potential adaptation for use of the Pacific countries.

Accessible ICT

- recognise that people with disabilities form a significant minority in Pacific Island countries and territories and that they are amongst the most vulnerable and disadvantaged part of the community;
- recognise that wide-ranging policies, legislation and regulation will assist so that people with disabilities can participate equally in society;
- acknowledge that ICT is a significant enabler and further recognize that if used appropriately, ICT opens opportunities for employment, education and consequently contributions by people with disabilities to the community as a whole; and
- n. recognise that inclusive communications legislation as well as policy on disability and ICT forms a foundation for implementation of programmes to increase the

accessibility, availability and affordability of ICT for people with disabilities.

ICT for Development

 recognise the challenges in the effective application of ICTs for development and the key factors in the design and implementation of ICT for development projects and programmes.

Capacity Building

- p. acknowledge that the Pacific countries lack ICT capacity and that ICT capacity building is a key focus area of the Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific (FAIDP); and
- recognise that Pacific ACP Parliaments need ICT Capacity Building and the value of Train the Trainers (ToT) approach.

Emerging Issues

- r. recognise the need for members of Parliament to be kept up to date with rapid development in ICT;
- recognise the need for members to understand the benefits and challenges of social networking (e.g Facebook, twitter);
- t. recognise the growing threat of cybercrime and the attacks experienced by societies around the world underlines the need for countries to put in place a comprehensive set of measures to protect their citizens. These measures include criminal law and criminal justice action; and
- recognise the urgent need to use and dispose of ICT in an environmentally friendly manner and support the development of e-Waste strategy.

- ENDS



Pacific Legislatures for Population and Governance

PLPG Website

The ICT segment of the Hearing began with the official launching of the new PLPG Website www.plpg.net developed by the Pacific ICT Outreach Programme of SPC through the EU ACP ICT Access for the Poor project. The hosting of the website is also sponsored by the Pacific ICT Outreach Programme for the period 2012-2013. Maintenance and regular updating of the website is the responsibility of the PLPG Secretariat.

CRGA 41 supports SPC's work in the Pacific ICT sector

Pacific Island governments that gathered in New Caledonia in November 2011 for the 41st Meeting of the Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA 41) reaffirmed full support for the continuation of energy, information and communication technology (ICT) and transport services delivered by SPC's Economic Development Division (EDD).

Siaosi Sovaleni, Manager of EDD's Pacific ICT Outreach Programme (PICTO) Programme, delivered a presentation to CRGA 41 highlighting the key achievements of PICTO in 2011 and the expected deliverables for 2012.

The key highlights of PICTO's work in 2011 included:

- Reviewing/drafting national ICT policies for Kiribati, FSM, Palau, and Solomon Islands;
- Providing technical assistance to seven parliaments – Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu;
- Facilitating the setup of 17 RICS sites in Solomon Islands in partnership with the Solomon Islands government and the Global Fund to provide internet access;
- Setting up an e-Centre for the parliament of Samoa to improve access to ICT; and

Forming strategic partnerships with key agencies such as with Netsafe (to address cyber safety issues); the International Telecommunications Union (convened a Joint ICT Ministerial forum); the Secretarial of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (to address e-waste issues); and Commonweath address Secretariat (to e-government issues).

The importance of addressing cyber safety issues in light of the growing use of ICT in the region was also emphasised One of PICTO's key deliverables for 2012 is to support countries in establishing a national cyber safety programme and enacting cybercrime legislation that criminalises the misuse of ICT.

Other key deliverables for PICTO in 2012 include:

• Providing assistance to support development of relevant ICT policies and legislation and collection of ICT data;

- Providing technical assistance to Pacific parliaments'
- Conducting assessments/audits of ICT infrastructure for PICT port authorities;
- Promoting and facilitate accessible ICT especially to disadvantaged groups including reviewing existing PacRICS sites and OLPC deployments and exploring potential collaboration with the energy sector; and
- Developing and implementing a regional Internet Safety programme in collaboration with Netsafe.

While noting the work and achievements of EDD programmes in 2011, CRGA 41 endorsed the division's strategic plan for the period 2012–2017 and approved the outline of EDD's proposed work programme for 2012.



Representatives at the 41st meeting of SPC's Committee of Representatives of Governments and Administrations (CRGA)

SPC and UNDP join hands to assist Kiribati Parliament

The Pacific ICT Outreach Programme (PICTO) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under their specific projects for Pacific Parliaments collaborated to assist Kiribati Parliaments during their induction program.

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Kiribati completed their elections in October 2011 and the newly elected candidates of the Kiribati Parliament convened for a three days induction program. The main aim of the induction program was to assist the newly elected members in strengthening their capacities in their new role as parliamentarians. As new members, they were required to learn parliamentary procedures and how they can be effective and efficient in their new role as legislators and leaders of Kiribati. Topics covered in the induction programme included transparency, corruption, good governance, accountability and ICT as a tool for development, to name a few.



Kiribati Parliament staff receive training from SPC

SPC's role in this joint mission was threefold:

- 1. To sensitise members of parliament about the issues and challenges Pacific islands face and how ICT can address these issues and challenges;
- 2. To conduct a train-the-trainers for parliamentary staff on software application such as MS Office, Email and Internet; and
- 3. To develop an Acceptable Use Policy for Kiribati Parliament's

network resources.

SPC's parliamentary work in the ICT sector is mainly guided by the EU/ ACP funded "ICT Access for the Poor Project: improving access to ICT by informing and engaging Pacific ACP Legislators". The project recognised ICT as a tool for sustainable socioeconomic development for the Pacific region and the urgent need for Pacific leaders, parliamentarians, legislators, policy makers to champion the use of ICT to improve the livelihoods of Pacific communities.

SPC and UNDP will continue their partnership in 2012 with the intention of progressing development, governance and sustainable livelihoods of Pacific communities in the region through raising awareness of and strengthening the ICT knowledge of parliamentarians.

* Article by Tanielu Aiafi, ICT Officer, Pacific ICT Outreach Programme (PICTO), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji.



Samoa Members of Parliament taking the lead in ICT Training

"Improving the understanding of Pacific Legislators on the key role of ICT as a basis for economic development" was the main objective of the ICT training conducted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) for members of the Samoa Parliament.

The training was part of the implementation of the EU/ACP/ SPC Project "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Access for the Poor: Improving access to ICT by informing and engaging Pacific ACP Legislators".

The main purpose of this project is to improve Pacific Legislators' knowledge and understanding of the key roles of ICT in addressing development issues facing the Pacific Islands and for members to be effective leaders in championing the use of ICT as a tool for development.

The ICT training for the Samoa Parliament provided an opportunity for members to learn about the issues including the benefits and challenges of providing ICT services to Samoa particularly the poor, and rural and remote island communities.

The members who attended also had a chance to improve their ICT skills in Microsoft Word 2007, Excel, Power point, Internet and Email to enhance their productivity and effectiveness in using modern technology. The



Samoa Parliament staff receive training from SPC

training was conducted in the Samoa Parliament Library which was fully equipped with ten (10) computers, internet connection, white board and projector for training.

"ICT is a key tool for development in Samoa. I would like to see more members of parliament take part in computer training to enhance their knowledge and skills in using technology to improve their efficiency."



Samoa Parliament staff receive training from SPC

"Technology continues to evolve rapidly over time and we as parliamentarians we need to have a better understanding of how technology can help in development and for Samoa to keep up with rapid advances in technology in the global world", said Afioga Palusalue Faapo II, Leader of the Tautua Party who attended the training.

Members of Parliament who attended the training were thankful to SPC for the ICT training and requested for more ICT training in the future for Samoa Parliamentarians.

The training was made possible by the financial support of the EU through the ACP ICT Access for the Poor project.

* Article by Tanielu Aiafi, ICT Officer, Pacific ICT Outreach Programme, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), Fiji.

SPC conducts training on Web 2.0 tools and social media for information sharing

A workshop, which was held in Suva, Fiji for civil servants, explored the use of social media and other 'Web 2.0' technologies to improve service delivery.

The overall objective of the workshop was to discuss the opportunities offered by the social media and also the challenges of using these applications online. More broadly, it looked at the role of the internet and how social media can facilitate information sharing and collaboration.

The director of SPCs Land Resources Division, Inoke Ratukalou, believes that the development of relevant information and communication technology (ICT) policies and the use of ICT are integral to SPC's obligations to its member countries.

He elaborated: 'Web 2.0 is changing the way we do things and the way we perceive things and it empowers people to create awareness about the impacts of global issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, sea level rise and food security through the use of digital media, social networking tools and e-learning technologies. It also gives a voice to people, especially our youth.'

The workshop was made possible by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), an institution that was established within the Framework of the Lome Convention, a co-operation agreement between the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (known collectively as the ACP states) and the European Union. Mr Ratukalou told the participants that 'CTA recognises the need to improve the management of agricultural information in ACP countries. CTA is, therefore, at the forefront of Web 2.0 training and applications and will be linking up with its stakeholders in other SPC member countries to conduct similar training in 2012 and beyond.'

SPC, in partnership with CTA, has been working on a number of ICT activities related to information sharing, such as the use of mobile telephones to share information about market prices and reporting incidents of pest and disease. The aim of this partnership is to better serve the ever-changing information needs of SPC's Pacific stakeholders.

The workshop ended on Friday 9th December and it is expected that the discussions on the adoption and further dissemination of appropriate, low cost, simple and replicable internet-based technologies and applications will empower the participants to make a difference in their ministries.

* Article by Mr Vinesh Prasad, Information and Communication Assistant, Forests and Trees/Forestry and Agriculture Diversification (FAT/FAD) Groups,Land Resources Division - SPC



Participants and SPC staff at the SPC Web 2.0 workshop in Suva, Fiji.

PacINET 2011 - American Samoa

"Strengthening Pacific Communities: Shaping the Future with ICTs" was the theme for PacINET2011, the annual meeting of the Pacific Islands chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC), held in American Samoa from 7 to 11 November, 2011.

Visiting speakers came from Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa, Niue, Tonga, Australia, New Zealand, Hawaii and the United States, to offer regional and international perspectives. Local presenters showcased ICT initiatives aimed at strengthening and shaping the future of government and private sector organizations in American Samoa.

"The theme of the conference was seen by the community as relevant to the direction of ICT in American Samoa, with lots of local participation in the conference, as well as supporting the regional role and objectives of the Internet Society in the Pacific," said Maureen Hilyard, Chair of the PICISOC Board and one of organizers of the event.

A range of training sessions and workshops were held along with the international line-up of speakers and panelists. APNIC staff from Brisbane provided a week-long training on the transition to IPv6 for local technicians and a special open session on DNSSec. Pacific IGF workshops were held, including multi-stakeholder discussions about Pacificrelated internet governance issues and the future of internet governance in the Pacific. A very positive aspect of the conference was the frequent interventions of participants understanding about internet-related issues. Participants learned about Diplo Foundation Internet Governance and ICT Policy Training options, as well as the support available from the 700+ members on the PICISOC email list.



PacINET 2011 - American Samoa

A range of organisations sponsored the event, including supporting attendance by speakers and participants. The Internet Society, Pacific Internet Partners, and local ISP Blue Sky generously provided sponsorship for the event. Gunela Astbrink of ISOC Australia, who attended as a representative of ISOC, ran a session advocating on behalf of people with disabilities, and AusAid sponsored three Pacific Island participants to attend to present on disability and ICTs.

* Article by Ellen Strickland, secretary, PICISOC

The PICISOC board has appointed new office holders for 2011-2012. The following people were confirmed by unanimous vote of those present.



Maureen Hilyard Honorary Chair



Website



Andrew Molivurae Honorary Vice Chair



Andrew Berquist Website



Ellen Strickland Secretary



David Leeming Mail lists, memberships and SIGs



Treasurer



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USP connected to the International Space Station

A historic 'In-Flight Education' session between the University of the South Pacific and the students of Suva Sangam School with Dr Satoshi Furukawa, a Japanese astronaut currently staying in the International Space Station (ISS) was held on 14 October, 2011.

The live question & answer (Q&A) session was jointly organized by USP, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), and the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV).

The event, which attracted a total of 85 participants consisting of USP and Suva Sangam College staff and students, JICA Fiji Office, Japan and New Zealand Embassy staff, and the media, took place at the Video Conference Room, Japan-Pacific ICT Centre, USP Laucala Campus.

The ISS is a massive laboratory complex located at an attitude of approximately 400km above the earth and the ISS programme is supported by a consortium of 15 countries including Japan, the United States, Canada, European countries and Russia. The ISS facilitates various kinds of experiments conducted in a microgravity and high vacuum environment which contribute greatly to the development of our society.

During the Q&A session, Dr Furukawa entertained the participants with the performance in microgravity environment, which was well received by the participants.

The Vice Chancellor and President of USP, Professor Rajesh Chandra highlighted that this has been a once-in-a-lifetime and very inspiring event for every one present at USP, to interact with an astronaut. In addition, Professor Chandra congratulated Dr Furukawa and wished him well and further thanked JAXA, JICA and JOCV for making the event possible.

In his concluding remarks, JICA Fiji Office, Resident Representative, Mr Juichiro Sasaki stated that he was proud that JAXA chose Fiji to have such collaboration. Mr Sasaki commended the students of Suva Sangam School for the interesting Q&A session with Dr Fukurawa and stressed that the experience the students gained would be very rewarding. He emphasized to the students the need to realize the importance of 'inspiration for innovation' because without it human beings will not reach newer heights.

While quoting the words of a leading scientist at JAXA, Mr Sasaki also challenged the students that, "new horizons will only be seen from the higher stage you may build."

The JICA head quarters in Tokyo was connected via video conference and the Japanese media also covered the event.

* Article by USP Marketing & Communications Office and Mr. Shinya Murakami, USP-JICA ICT Project.



Students communicating with Dr Furukawa, an astronaut in ISS, on live

3G mobile broadband service arrives in Honiara

Solomon Islands Telecommunication company, beMobile launched its 3G mobile broadband services on Wednesday 30 November 2011.

beMobile will launch its newest service, the software protection 'dongle'.

Dongle is a small piece of hardware that plugs into and electrical connector on

a laptop, desktop or a server computer to access the Internet.

It is hoped that the launch will improve access to Internet and on-line services in the Honiara area, reports SIBC News.

(Source: SIBC/PACNEWS)



Aid donors key to bridging Pacific digital divide

The regional head of the world wide 'One Laptop Per Child' programme, says key Pacific donor agencies must become involved and help Pacific countries to bridge the growing digital divide.

Michael Hutak said information communication technology is at a crossroads in the region and laptops are an incentive for children to engage with schools.

He said donors such as the New Zealand aid programme and AusAid

need to realise ICT can radically change the education landscape for the better and he says their involvement would make the scheme sustainable.

Hutak said the United States Government has shown a lot of leadership in the North Pacific, with strong support for the programme in the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, where the scheme is being evaluated as its becomes established.

(Source: RNZI/PACNEWS)



World Bank official, FSM discuss telecom project



TJames Neumann, a policy and regulatory specialist of the World Bank, met with the Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure and the cabinet members of President Manny Mori's Task Force for Telecommunications and Submarine Fiber Optic Connectivity.

Neumann briefed the officials on the purposes of the World Bank engagement and the key findings of the draft report prepared by its consultants.

The draft report reviewed the evidence-based research

pointing the need to establish a policy and legal framework for market liberalization to achieve the economic and social benefits of telecommunications.

Other subjects in the report addressed the need to establish an independent regulatory body governing telecommunications; the submarine fiber optics option that would enable Chuuk, Kosrae, and Yap to improve international connectivity; the World Bank requirement for open and equal access for submarine fiber optics option; strengthening the FSM Telecommunications Corp. through investment and debt restructuring alternatives; and improving the capacity of the FSM government to manage the telecommunications sector reform.

(Source: FSMIO/PACNEWS)

Octopus Conference & Budapest Convention 10th anniversary meeting

Cybercrime experts representing countries from all continents, international organisations and the private sector met at the Council of Europe (CoE) in Strasbourg from 21 to 23 November 2011 to review the global cybercrime situation, to share experience on effective responses and to enhance cooperation against cybercrime at all levels.

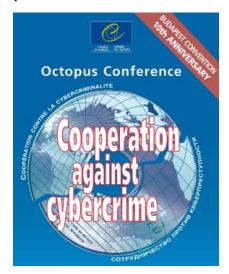
On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Budapest Convention (23 November), the Conference included a special session on the impact of this treaty. Senior representatives of Australia, the European Union, Hungary, the United Kingdom and the USA expressed strong support for global implementation of this Convention. Experts from Argentina, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tonga and the private sector underlined its impact and potential in different regions of

the world.

The Octopus conference is part of the Global Project on Cybercrime and has been made possible by voluntary contributions from Estonia, Japan, Monaco, Romania, Microsoft and Visa Europe, as well as from the Budget of the CoE.

Siaosi Sovaleni, Manager Pacific ICT Outreach Programme (PICTO, represented the Secretariat of the Pacific Community at the conference.

This presentation titled "Pacific Regional Workshop on Cybercrime Legislation", highlighted the ICT challenges faced in the Pacific and the approaches to addressing the challenges. The presentation also higlighted the Pacific Regional Workshop on Cybercrime Legislation held in Tonga from the 27-29 April 2011, the agreed outcomes from the workshop and ways forward for Pacific Island countries in terms of strengthening their cybercrime legislation as well as strengthening partnerships with key international partners such as CoE.







Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)

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