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| logogreen | **ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY**  7th APT Policy & Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-7)  8-10 July 2014, Nadi, Fiji | **Document PRFP-7**/**OUT-01** Rev1  16 June 2015 |

**REVISED SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 7TH APT POLICY AND REGULATION FORUM FOR PACIFIC (PRFP-7)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The 7th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-7) was held from 8 to 10 July

2014 in Nadi, Fiji. The meeting was organized by Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT). The Forum was hosted by the Ministry of Communications, Republic of Fiji and supported by the Ministry of Internal affairs and Communications (MIC), Government of Japan, Department of Communications (DoC), Australian Government, and the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA).

The agenda and the program of the meeting are contained in Documents PRFP-7/ADM-01 and PRFP-7/ADM-02 respectively.

The Meeting was attended by 62 participants representing Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations and other organizations. Document PRFP-7/ADM-03 contains the list of participants of the meeting.

**2. OPENING SESSION (Tuesday, 8th July 2014, 09:30-10:30)**

**2.1 Welcome Address by Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General, APT**

Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General of APT delivered welcome address.

The full text of Mr. Yamada’s address can be found in document PRFP-7/INP-23.

**2.2 Video Message from Mr. Malcom Johnson, Director of Telecommunication**

**Standardization Bureau (TSB), ITU**

Mr. Malcom Johnson, TSB Director, ITU delivered his address through video. The full text of the address can be found in document PRFP-7/INP-19.

**2.3 Address by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Senior Director for International Cooperation**

**Affairs, MIC, Japan**

Mr. Masanori Kondo, Senior Director for International Cooperation Affairs, MIC, Japan, delivered an address.

The full text of his address can be found in document PRFP-7/INP-29.

**Contact:** Email:

**2.4 Address by Mr. Ivan Fong, President, PITA**

Mr. Ivan Fong, President of PITA delivered an address.

The full text of his address can be found in document PRFP-7/INP-25.

**2.5 Inaugural Address by Minister for Communications, Fiji**

Hon. Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum, Attorney-General and Minister for Communications, Fiji delivered inaugural address.

In his address, he outlined the way that Fiji is preparing its telecommunications sector to be the leader in the Pacific. He stressed the importance of infrastructure sharing in the telecommunications sector that would lower the investment requirements. He also mentioned the main objective that Fiji hoped to achieve was to enhance and attract positive investment opportunities not only for the locals, but for potential overseas investors.

**2.6** A token of appreciation was presented to the Minister by the Secretary General of APT.

**3. Session 1: Policy and Regulation Trends in the Pacific (Tuesday, 8th July 2014,**

**10:45-12:15)**

**Chair:** Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General, APT

**3.1 Adoption of Agenda and Program (Document PRFP-7/ADM-01 and PRFP-7/ADM-**

**02)**

Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General, APT, introduced the provisional agenda of the meeting contained in document PRFP-7/ADM-01. It was approved.

He also informed that the tentative program of the meeting was contained in document

PRFP-7/ADM-02. It was noted by the meeting.

**3.2 Decisions of the 37th Session of the Management Committee Relevant to PRFP**

***(Document PRFP-7/INP-18)***

Secretary General of APT presented the document.

He mentioned that the MC-37 that was held in Lao PDR, 2013, approving the Working Methods for Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP). The Working Methods are copied in Document PRFP-7/INF-01.

**3.3 ITU Activity Briefing for Pacific Region *(Document PRFP-7/INP-16)***

Ms. Xiaoya Yang, Head, WTSA Programmes Division, ITU-TSB, ITU, presented the document.

This presentation provided a briefing for the Pacific region on ITU activities on misuse of international numbering resource, guideline on establishment of a National Standardization Secretariat for ITU-T to bridge standardization gap, and the ITU’s Conformance and Interoperability Programme.

**Q&A**

- Mr. Ron Box from Vanuatu queried on the reason that GSMA stopped reporting on number misuse since 2013. He wanted to know what the problem was and what needed to be done on the issue.

- Ms. Yang replied that other contributors apart from GSMA could continue to report to the mechanism. She mentioned that GSMA and BEREC also had internal notification mechanisms and they had different focuses and emphasis.

- Mr. Punaha from PNG queried on the establishment of NSS (National Standardization Secretariat). He mentioned that there is the serious problem of capacity and sustainability in establishing NSS. He is interested in how ITU could facilitate the establishment of regional centers using existing center in the region instead of focusing on the national focus. The concern was also applied to MRAs (Mutual Recognition Agreement) and testing centers.

- Ms. Yang responded that regarding the MRAs and testing center ITU had coordinated among countries in the same region. She also added that C&I regimes for countries were needed at the regional level.

- Dr. Horton from PNG, queried whether there was any discussion going on regarding regional IP exchange point.

- Ms. Yang further added that there was no regional group for study group 2 from the Pacific. She mentioned that there was the work of ITU-D, in partnership with ISOC, in promoting internet exchange points and there could be some discussion in SG3.

**3.4 Policy trend aiming for further development of mobile broadband *(Document PRFP-***

***7/INP-15)***

Mr. Masanori Kondo, MIC, Japan, presented the document.

The presentation introduced policies and activities for further development of mobile broadband in Japan. The content of the presentation was a summary of mobile telecommunication in Japan including penetration of cellular services and development of mobile related services. In addition, the presentation provided Japan’s efforts in introducing latest mobile telecommunication systems including 4G (4th generation mobile communication systems) and 5G (5th generation mobile communication systems).

**4. Session 2: Review of Telecommunication Status in the Pacific and Update on**

**Activities (Tuesday 8th July 2014, 14:00-15:30)**

**Chair:** Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Director, Ministry of Communications, Fiji

**4.1 Status and Update on Activities: Broadband in Fiji (*Document PRFP-7/INP-22*)**

Mr. Jonacani Veiqati, Ministry of Communications, Fiji, presented the document.

The presentation provided Ministry’s stance on the National Broadband. It also touched on the Exposure of the ICT sector in Fiji in terms of Key Indicators.

**4.2 Status and Update on Activities: Fiji National Numbering Plan (*Document PRFP-***

***7/INP-22)***

Mr. Tevita Navila, Telecommunications Authority of Fiji (TAF), Fiji, presented the document.

The document presented how the Fiji’s National Numbering Plan was developed including the assigned resources and reserved resources.

**4.3 Status and Update on Activities: Cybersecurity (*Document PRFP-7/INP-22)***

Mr. Elvin Prasad, Ministry of Communications, Fiji, presented the document.

The presentation briefly gave an insight into the Cyber-Security status of Fiji and the Pacific. It discussed the challenges faced by Pacific countries in relation to Cyber-Security and the possible laws and policies which could be developed to combat the rising cyber threats, etc. It provided further analysis of Cyber-Security global trends and effective Cyber-Security Laws and Policies for the Pacific.

**Q&A**

- Mr. Defreitas, Regulator, Samoa commented on the usefulness of online training module on cybersecurity for frontline agencies such as police and law enforcement agencies and the establishment of regional training center on Cybersecurity for the Pacific.

- Mr. Davies replied that the Secretariat would investigate the possibility of arranging a online training module on the topic. Mr. Finau from USP advised that the PacCERT office had been funded by USP and that USP would stop funding the PacCERT in December 2014.

**4.4 Vanuatu’s challenging and exciting universal access provision initiatives *(Document***

***PRFP-7/INP-03)***

Mr. Ron Box, Regulator, TRR, Vanuatu, presented the document.

Vanuatu has commenced a challenging and exciting universal access provision journey. There are many steps and hurdles to be faced, but the approach has been clearly set through the Government’s innovative Universal Access Policy, which has specified a “play” (roll out willingly) or “pay” (a levy) approach to operators and TRR has been tasked to manage and implement all Policy objectives by 1 January 2018.

**4.5 E-Disaster Communications Network in Rural Environment in Tonga (*Document***

***PRFP-7/INP-24)***

Mr. Alifeleti Tuifua Tuihalamaka, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information & Communications, Tonga, presented the document.

Tonga is ranked as the second highest risky nation for natural disasters in the world. The common issue for disaster management is the lack of a sound-based information dissemination system and a lack of information-sharing mechanism within and among the disaster related organizations.

APT and experts from Japan helped out to strengthen the capability of disaster management and to save lives in vulnerable situations by utilizing ICT, under a project called ‘ICT Development Program for supporting ICT in Rural Areas 2012’

In this project, an Early Warning System (EWS) and Disaster Information System (DIS) was introduced on the broadband network infrastructure using 4.9GHz IP wireless link and Optic Fibre Cable, which connects 8 project sites, including the two pilot sites located in two villages at the western part of the main island, Tongatapu.

**5. Session 3: Facilitating the ICT Investment for the Pacific (Tuesday 8th July 2014,**

**15:45-17:15)**

**Chair:** Mr. Ivan Fong, President, PITA

**5.1 Pacific ICT Sector Development, Prospects and Challenges *(Document PRFP-7/INP-***

***06)***

Mr. Douglas Webb, World Bank, presented the document.

While the “mobile revolution” has brought the majority of Pacific islands populations within reach of more affordable and reliable telecommunications, there are still many benefits and opportunities for the region from improved access to ICT. ICT policymakers and regulators in the region still face significant challenges: lowering the cost of broadband Internet to make this a “ubiquitous” and general purpose technology for the region; ensuring fair market behavior and consumer protection; tackling next-generation regulator challenges. All of these create strong incentives for regulators to work increasingly closely together in the region. The World Bank, with its development partners, is ready to assist this process.

**Q&A**

- On the query from Mr. Sanford whether satellite was part of the activities on connectivity of World Bank, Mr. Webb replied that World Bank was technology agnostic regarding connectivity.

**5.2 ICT in Pacific: ADB’s role *(Document PRFP-7/INP-01)***

Mr. Sibesh Bhattacharya, Senior Infrastructure Specialist-ICT, Asian Development Bank, presented the document via a video presentation.

Asian Development bank, has been working with the vision to remove poverty from Asia Pacific region. It has recognized ICT as one of the enablers to remove poverty in the modern technological era. With its strategy 2020, ADB has committed to prioritize ICT as a strategic sector especially in the pacific region to overcome the ‘Digital divide’. This

presentation briefly discussed ADB’s existing lending programs, pipeline opportunities and

approach to ICT sector in Pacific.

**5.3 ICT Regulations (What Asia can learn from Pacific) *(Document PRFP-7/INP-21)***

Mr. Muhammad Aslam Hayat, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Telenor Pakistan, Pakistan presented the document.

Most of the Asian policy makers and regulators look towards West when they need to learn new trends and ways to regulate new technologies. However, it is believed that there are quite a few things which Asia can learn from the Pacific in the ICT regulatory space and vice versa.

**6. Session 4: Policy and Regulatory issues on Internet (Wednesday, 9th July 2014, 09:00-**

**10:30)**

**Chair:** Mr. Charles Punaha, CEO NICTA, PNG

**6.1 Participation in an evolving Internet landscape (*Document PRFP-7/INP-20)***

Mr. Save Vocea, Regional VP – Australasia/Pacific Islands, ICANN, presented the document.

A call for the Pacific policy makers to stand and also make their voices and contribution heard in both regional and global Internet Governance debates. The presentation reviewed the current Internet governance issues and updates relevant to the region and also to encourage open, and bottom up participation in policy decision making at national, regional and global fora to support the development of the Internet. An update on IANA stewardship oversight and processes was also covered.

**Q&A**

- Mr. Punaha commented that currently, there was lack of participation from Pacific in

ICANN activities. He wanted to know how ICANN could facilitate in this aspect.

- Mr. Vocea replied on the Internet governance training that Oceania ICANN working group had identified that internet governance training for law enforcement agencies was important and that there were many organizations providing training on the issue including ISOC. He said that ICANN was willing to work in regional or national level on the issue.

**6.2 A Neutral and Open Internet: Considering Content *(Document PRFP-7/INP-17)***

Ms. Noelle De Guzman, Regional Programmes Coordinator and Mr. Winthrop Yu, ISOC, presented the document.

The growth of over-the-top services in the Internet has presented a number of challenges for established regulatory and business practices. As stakeholders navigate the increasing complexity of the online landscape, the Internet Society believes that Internet access models which are built on the principles of transparency and open internetworking are crucial to enabling the Internet’s continued expansion as a beneficial resource for all.

**6.3 OTT Trends and Impact on Telco Landscape *(Document PRFP-7/INP-10)***

Dr. C. W. Cheung, Consulting Director, OVUM, Hong Kong presented the document.

Over-the-Top (OTT) players have generated tremendous impacts to the telecommunications industry over the years. OTTs bring about new applications & service innovations, network traffic tsunami & congestion, competition, regulatory issues such as net neutrality, data privacy, consumer protection issues, etc. However, OTT services have also caused significant revenue losses to the telecom operators.

The presentation provided an overview of the OTT development status re: business model and service innovations, how OTTs disrupt the industry and impact the telcos. The presentation concluded with a brief discussion of potential regulatory issues.

**Q&A**

- Mr. Punaha from PNG queried on how to overcome the issue of OTT payer outside the jurisdiction area.

- Dr. Cheung replied that most of countries faced the problem of sustaining the utilization of infrastructure. Most regulators realized that the content from OTT players is a must to stimulate the use of broadband and most of content came from abroad. The regulators should take two-pronged approach by raising awareness of broadband usage through content from OTT outside the jurisdiction and at the same time encouraging the development of local content.

- Mr. Yu from ISOC mentioned that if regulator imposed some fee to OTT player which is similar to a form of tax. He said that the problem was transnational and could be an issue of WTO.

- Mr. Choong from Digicel PNG commented that countries in the Pacific had to face ISP transit cost and that this cost should be spread to wider group including the OTT players. He mentioned that Net Neutrality was a luxurious thing for developed countries like the Netherland and something that the developing countries like the Pacific might not be able to afford.

**7. Session 5: Human Resource Development in the Pacific (Wednesday 9th July 2014,**

**10:45-12:15)**

**Chair:** Ms. Blanche Salii, Regulatory Affairs Supervisor, Palau National

Communications Corporation, Palau

**7.1 Regulatory and Consumerism Issues in Fiji’s ICT Sector *(Document PRFP-7/INP-***

***27)***

Mr. Abdul Ifraan, Fiji Commerce Commission, Fiji presented the document on behalf of

Mr. Bobby Jitendra Maharaj, Chief Executive Officer, Fiji Commerce Commission, Fiji.

Regulation of the ICT Sector to enhance effective competition of is of great importance to facilitate fair trading practices and protect the interest of both, the service providers as well as the ultimate users of the services. The presentation looked into the involvement of the Fiji Commerce Commission in Fiji’s ICT sector regulation. The second Part of the Presentation looked into the common consumer issues related to the ICT Sector in Fiji and the role of the Commission in regards to consumer protection.

**7.2 ICT regulatory capacity building in the Pacific *(Document PRFP-7/INP-12*)**

Mr. Brian Louey-Gung, Technical Advisor, PiRRC, presented the document.

Capacity building programs abound in the Pacific across many different industries and disciplines. This presentation focused on the process of capacity building in the ICT industry as it had been experienced by the presenter. It provided a personal perspective on priorities for improvement.

**Q&A**

- Mr. De Freitas, Regulator, Samoa raised the issue of the Pacific need to focus on the training programme in the sub-region, specifically on Cybersecurity issue. He mentioned that the Pacific looked for support on the establishment of training courses and training facilities in the Pacific.

**8. Session 6: Enhance International Connectivity (Wednesday 9th July 2014, 14:00-**

**15:30)**

**Chair:** Mr. Phil Philippo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Transportation, Marshall

Islands

**8.1 Developments in Pacific Connectivity – An update for Regulators and Policy Makers**

***(Document PRFP-7/INP-28)***

Mr. Maui Sanford, MS Consulting Tahiti, French Polynesia, presented the document.

This presentation, prepared jointly by John Hibbard, Paul McCann and Maui Sanford, provided the status of submarine and satellite communications connectivity in the Pacific and examined some of the key considerations when planning network expansion or connectivity. Also covered were the key recent developments including:

• Initiatives in Satellite and Cable Technology and Solutions. What technology developments are influencing decisions and solutions?

• Drivers affecting bandwidth growth? What other aspects need to be considered in order to drive growth in demand?

• What impact on demand has improving international connectivity made?

• National considerations

• Regional Roundup of International Developments

• Funding considerations

• Conclusions including messages for Regulators and Policy Makers

**8.2 Building a Submarine Cable: what a pleasant nightmare (*Document PRFP-7/INP-02)***

Mr. Robert Bolouri, Tonga Cable Ltd., Tonga, presented the document.

The document discussed challenges of building a cable project; before and after. It explained how to make a submarine cable business work in a small market including a few points specific to Tonga Cable.

**8.3 O3b: Reality in the Pacific Region *(Document PRFP-7/INP-14)***

Mr. Mike Mullis, O3b Networks, presented the document.

In his presentation, Mr. Mullis provided an update on O3b’s progress. In 2014 O3b has made the transition to full commercial service with Pacific Island Nations now using the network. More Pacific Island Nations are busily preparing themselves for O3b’s July and December launches. O3b’s vision of bringing connectivity to underserved regions of the world is now a reality and especially in the Pacific where it will connect Ten Nations and States.

**Q&A**

- Mr, Mullis from O3b responded on the query regarding the throughput of O3b that the

2.4-m antenna could have throughput around 600 Mbps.

- On the query regarding the swappable feed of C/Ku/Ka band, Mr. Mullis replied that this was under study.

**9. Session 7: Closed Regulator’s session (Wednesday 9th July 2014, 15:45-17:15) Round Table Discussion**

**Facilitator:** Mr. Donnie De Freitas, Regulator, Samoa

The following points were discussed during the session:

1. Follow up on issues from PRFP-6

2. Transition to digital broadcasting – maximizing the digital dividend

3. Outcome of case 152 (Digicel’s anti-competitive claim in Vanuatu) –Ron Box

4. Pacific Roaming

5. Consumer Regulation/Codes

6. Universal access – countries update

7. Spectrum Management for Small Island States (AFIS)

8. Report from ITU Global Symposium for Regulators in the Pacific (GSR 14) –Ron

Box

9. Report on World Summit for Information Society) WSIS + 10 –Donnie Defreitas

The following decisions were made during the discussion:

- International Connectivity: Pacific countries to provide information on international connectivity to PiRRC within 2 weeks; PiRRC to send the information to APT to upload the information to APT website.

- Mr. Wisit from ITU to follow up on the ITU-EC Project Phase II.

- Coordination in training on digital broadcasting transition/roadmap. Pacific countries to approach ITU, APT, PACMAS for assistance. Pacific countries to send relevant information to Mr. Donnie Defreitas in 2 weeks. Samoa is willing to assist in training.

- APT to share the information on the report of International Mobile Roaming Report

2012 and the relevant WCIT report. The issue on international roaming for the Pacific to be raised to Ministerial level.

- Mr. Wisit from ITU to explore the possibility of ITU holding the Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting next year.

- Fiji, Vanuatu, and PNG are willing to share their consumer regulation/code with other members of PRFP.

- Pacific countries to provide update status on Universal Access to Vanuatu. Vanuatu is willing to assist in the training.

**10. Session 8: Telecommunications Technology Related Issues (Thursday, 10th July**

**2014, 09:00-10:30)**

**Chair:** Mr. Wilson Leguvaka, Director Regulatory Resources, Telecommunications

Commission of Solomon Islands, Solomon Islands

**10.1 Broadband Wireless for Public Protection & Disaster Relief: A cost-effective approach for national administrations *(Document PRFP-7/INP-08)***

Mr. Stewart J. Wallace, Telstra, Australia, presented the document.

Bringing broadband wireless technology to national PPDR agencies is a daunting prospect – but public safety/security and disaster relief increasingly demand a more

effective response. Building a dedicated network is expensive. Telstra has developed a method of partitioning a public LTE network that assures PPDR of dedicated capacity, but also offers automatic overflow with priority access for emergency services in times of major event. Riding the coat-tails of a public network relieves governments of major capital investment, while also supporting advanced wireless services to the community, for small business and the tourism industry.

**10.2 Regulating for growth** (***Document PRFP-7/INP-26)***

Mr. Kien Choong, Policy and Planning Manager, Digicel (PNG) Limited, PNG, presented the document.

Regulating for growth is our collective challenge in emerging economies. The key ingredient for growth is investment – in physical infrastructure and human capital. Participants in the ICT sector (regulators, governments and operators) must work together to promote investment in physical infrastructure. The ICT sector is an intermediary industry that facilitates productivity improvements in other sectors of the economy. Investment in ICT sector facilitates growth in the rest of the economy.

**10.3 Development trends of IoT & M2M, an impact on telco (*Document PRFP-7/INP-11)***

Dr. C. W. Cheung, Consulting Director, OVUM, Hong Kong presented the document.

The presentation provided a market outlook of IoT/M2M. Total global M2M connections will increase from 200 million in 2013 to 630 million in 2019. M2M service revenues will grow from $24.6 billion in 2013 to $75.5 billion in 2019. Currently, Asia Pacific is the largest regional market accounting for over one third of M2M revenues, followed by North America and Western Europe with around 20% each.

The M2M market is not a single market but rather a collection of markets built around narrow industry verticals and applications with transport, manufacturing, healthcare sectors experiencing the stronger demands. There are increasing consumer technology vendors moving outside of the smart devices market and into other types of connected electronic devices, such as smart watches, thermostats, and fitness trackers.

The “Consumer Internet of Things (IoT)" represents a significant opportunity for hardware vendors, software companies, and connectivity providers alike.

The presentation examined issues critical to future development, and implications to the telecommunications landscape, e.g. business models and related policy/regulatory issues such as standardization, etc.

**11. Session 9 : Radio Spectrum Issues (Thursday, 10th July 2014, 10:45-12:15) Chair:** Mr. Ronald Box, Regulator, TRR, Vanuatu

**11.1 A Spectrum Vision: future mobile broadband systems *(Document PRFP-7/INP-09)***

Mr. Stewart J. Wallace, Telstra, Australia presented the document.

Studies in ITU-R to meet future spectrum needs of IMT mobile broadband have been contentious – there are no easy solutions, and the list of bands is quite short. Many countries see IMT mobile broadband as the means of re-energising national economic

and social development. Opportunities for new industries, boosting tourism and small business enterprise, based on improved productivity courtesy of ubiquitous wireless broadband are too valuable to ignore.

**11.2 THE ROAD TO WRC-15: Satellite issues and C-band matters *(Document PRFP-***

***7/INP-04)***

Mr. Bob Horton Expert Advisor to the NICTA Board, PNG, presented the document.

The presentation provided update on the international process (ITU and APT) and where the Pacific island countries stand on the studies and strategies for C-band. It also reported on the campaigns and Reports being progressed by the GVF, GSMA, CASBAA and EuroSat etc. The presentation would also be forward looking in terms of the future strategic directions and actions which will be vital to the Pacific Islands interests. It stressed the need for a Questionnaire and ITU Registration of earth stations.

**11.3 WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.1 and Importance of C-band for FSS (*Document PRFP-***

***7/INP-05)***

Dr. Bob Horton, Expert Advisor to the NICTA Board, PNG, presented the document on behalf of Mr. Yvon Henri, Chief, Space Systems Coordination Division, ITU.

The presentation outlined the Agenda Item 1.1 of WRC-15 which is “... to consider additional spectrum allocations to mobile service on a primary basis and identification of additional frequency bands for IMT ... ”. With the C-Band being a candidate spectrum for IMT, the presentation described the importance of C-band for FSS. It touched on the sharing studies between IMT and FSS. Finally, it explained how to provide international recognition to thousands of typical stations in C-band.

**11.4 C-BAND - WRC 15: Updates on preparations by the Pacific Islands** (***Document***

***PRFP-7/INP-07)***

Mr. Panny Yokope, Manager Resource Planning, NICTA, PNG presented the document. The document provided update and reported on the progress of lobbying for the protection

of the C-Band at WRC-15, which PNG has taken a leading role for the Pacific Islands as

agreed at the PRFP-6 last year and up to the latest input to APG3 and what is planned next.

**12. Session 10 (Thursday, 10th July 2014, 14:00-15:30)**

**Panel Discussion: Consideration of issues for the APT Ministerial Meeting**

**Moderator:** Mr. Stuart Davies, Telecom Expert, APT

**Panelists:**

1. Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Director Communications, Ministry of Communications, Fiji

2. Dr. C. W. Cheung, Consulting Director, OVUM

3. Ms. Blanche Salii, Regulatory Affairs Supervisor, Palau National Communications

Corporation, Palau

4. Mr. Wilson Leguvaka, Director Regulatory Resources, Telecommunications

Commission of Solomon Islands, Solomon Islands

5. Mr. John Jack, Business Relations Officer, Office of the Government Chief

Information Officer, Vanuatu

**12.1 Preparation for the APT Ministerial Meeting (*Document PRFP-7/INP-13)***

Mr. Stuart Davies, Telecom Expert, APT presented the document.

The document provided the background of the APT Ministerial Meeting, the objectives and included the theme of the Ministerial Meeting and its structure. It also mentioned the Correspondence Group for the preparation of Ministerial Meeting.

**12.2 APT Ministerial Meeting Theme: Building Smart Digital Economy(*Document***

***PRFP-7/INP-30)***

Dr. C.W. Cheung, Consulting Director, OVUM, presented the document which outlined his views on possible initiatives from PRFP-7 for input to the Ministerial Meeting

**12.3** Mr. Punaha from NICTA, PNG, made general comments suggesting that Industry Dialogue from the operators should be taken into consideration and to identify policies that facilitated new markets and growth opportunities across the Asia Pacific Region.

**12.4** The panel discussed the possible initiatives to be an input to the APT Ministerial Meeting. Following the panel’s input the floor was opened to the Forum. The Forum agreed on a number of initiatives to be an input for consideration by the Correspondence Group for the preparation APT Ministerial Meeting. The summary of initiatives can be referred to in Doc. No. PRFP-7/OUT-2.

**Decision No. 1 (PRFP-7)**

The Forum has agreed on the initiatives to be the input to the Correspondence Group for the preparation APT Ministerial Meeting for its further deliberation. A summary of the initiatives proposed by PRFP-7 can be referred to in Doc. No. PRFP-7/OUT-02.

**12 Closing Session (Thursday, 10th July 2014, 15:45-17:00) Chair:** Mr. Stuart Davies, Telecom Expert, APT

**13.1 Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of PRFP**

Mr. Charles Punaha, NICTA, PNG, and Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Director, Ministry of Communications, Fiji, were nominated and seconded for the posts of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of PRFP respectively.

Mr. Charles Punaha, NICTA, PNG was elected as the chairman of the PRFP and will continue his chairmanship for the term of two years according to the Working Methods of the PRFP.

Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Ministry of Communications, Fiji was elected as the vice-chairman of the PRFP and will continue his chairmanship for the term of two years according to the Working Methods of the PRFP.

**Decision No. 2 (PRFP-7)**

Mr. Charles Punaha, NICTA, PNG was elected as the Chairman of the PRFP. He will

continue his term until the PRFP meeting in 2016.

Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Ministry of Communications, Fiji was elected as the Vice-Chairman of the PRFP. He will continue his term until the PRFP meeting in 2016.

**13.2 Consideration and adoption of output documents**

In the PRFP Meeting Dr. Bob Horton had given background presentations on the WRC process and amongst other issues C-band (information provided by the BR and at the request of Mr Yvon Henri) and on the WRC processes as they relate to the Pacific and where matters have progressed to date.

Following this, Mr. Panny Yokope, NICTA had presented a proposal for a Liaison Statement.

Mr Charles Punaha, NICTA put the draft Liaison Statement to the Plenary from APT PRFP-7 on Pacific Islands’ position on C-Band Matters under WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.1. The meeting approved the document. The Liaison Statement will be forwarded to APG-4 for its consideration and action.

**Decision No. 3 (PRFP-7)**

PRFP-7 approved Liaison Statement from APT PRFP-7 on Pacific Islands’ Position on C- Band Matters under WRC-15 Agenda Item 1.1. The Liaison Statement can be referred to in Doc. No. PRFP-7/OUT-03.

**13.3 Date and Venue next PRFP meeting**

Regarding the Date and Venue of the next PRFP meeting, it was agreed that the preference would be to hold PRFP-8 in conjunction with the PITA AGM if possible. APT Secretariat, in conjunction with Mr. Punaha, Chairman of PRFP, will liaise with PITA and others for possible dates and venue in due course.

**13.4 Any other Business**

As the result of the many requests from the Pacific members, Mr. Kondo from Japan confirmed to make his effort to extend Japanese support to the activities of APT to hold a training workshop for the Pacific next year.

**13.5** Closing remarks were delivered by Mr. Shivnesh Prasad, Ministry of Communications, Fiji.

Mr. Charles Punaha, Chairman of PRFP, delivered his closing remarks.

Mr. Stuart Davies, APT, delivered his closing remarks and then declared the meeting closed.