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NICTA IN PERSPECTIVE

Official Newsletter of the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA)



National Information & Communications
Technology Authority

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Staff Trained to assist with
Recruitment.

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NICTA's Chief Executive), nominated to Chair Pacific ICT Dialogue, which was held in February in Kokopo, East New Britain Province. Read this and more in this Issue.

Picture credit : Department of ICT

EDITORIAL NOTE

NICTA in Perspective is a quarterly Newsletter of the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA).

This publication summaries activities and events related to the mandate, functions and core business of NICTA as an independent ICT regulator.

Also in this issue:



International Girls in ICT
DAY 2023



World Telecommunications
Day 2023



Kapal shares her journey
with NICTA at the 2023
National Womens Day



Appreciating a Team
member

NICTA - WHO ARE WE

OUR MANDATE

NICTA is an independent regulatory authority established through the NICT Act 2009. NICTA is the primary regulator of the ICT industry in Papua New Guinea with specific focus on telecommunications, radio communications & broadcasting.

OUR PURPOSE

Our Purpose is to advance the objective of the Act in relation to the development and availability of ICT services to meet social, commercial, cultural and industrial needs of Papua New Guinea and to facilitate the development of the industry through implementing the regulatory framework consistent with regulatory principals set out in the Act.

OUR VISION

ENABLING A CONNECTED INCLUSIVE PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Drawing from our mandate and purpose, we foresee all Papua New Guineans having access to affordable and high quality ICT services.

OUR MISSION

FOSTERING TRANSFORMATION BY EFFECTIVE ICT REGULATION AND ENABLING UNIVERSAL ACCESS

We will take lead in regulating the ICT sector in Papua New Guinea whilst promoting strong and strategic partnerships with stakeholders.

We foster a dynamic and progressive ICT environment, through efficient and effective regulation.

OUR CORE VALUES

Our values are principals and beliefs that govern our day-to-day behavior, internally as employees of NICTA and externally with our customers and stakeholders.

Our values guide us to achieve our mission, shape the culture of the organization and progress our vision to be a modern ICT regulator.

Our **VALUES** are: **INTERGRITY, COMMITMENT, INNOVATION, RESPECT & COLLABORATION**



Dear Readers!

It is with great pleasure I welcome you all to the first edition of the National Information and Communication Technology Authority (NICTA) official newsletter, NICTA In PERSPECTIVE. Since its inception in 2009 through the NICT Act 2009, the authority has not had a publication of such. Since this is the first edition, it covers the first half of 2023.

NICTA in Perspective is in line with NICTA's Strategic Priority five (5) outlined in its Corporate Plan 2021-2025 which calls for efforts to enhance awareness, engagement and communication of its functions and regulations.

These quarterly publications ensure to capture the highlights and progress of the organization while educating, informing and raising awareness on our core business as the leading ICT regulator in PNG.

The inaugural Pacific Heads of ICT meeting, month long Safer Internet Day (SID) 2023 campaign and NICTA's flagship program, Girls in ICT Tertiary Scholarship Program are few of what is covered in this issue.

I hope that through this reading, you can appreciate the significance of NICTA's existence as the primary regulator of ICT, working with other government stakeholders including the Department of ICT and Industry Players, fostering a dynamic and progressive ICT environment, through efficient and effective regulation.

Happy reading

Kila Gulo -Vui
Chief Executive Officer

NICTA BOARD



NICTA BOARD MEMBERS (l-r)

Independent Expert -Caroline Greenway, Board Director John Cholai , Board Director and NICTA CEO Kila Gulo-Vui & Board Chairman Noel Mobiha

Chairman's Message

The NICTA Board would like to congratulate NICTA management for taking up a public circulation document that is now available for public consumption.

We operate in a highly technical space and the work that we do is often not visible to the public. With documentation like this on quarterly approaches, the public can follow what we are doing in this space.

The management has done this to show to the public of what is going on under the radar and highly technical discussions that cover not only the monitoring, issuance and surveillance of the spectrum but it goes as far as us assisting in equipment imports, standards that are put in place to minimize issues of interference. This also goes to the level of NICTA ensuring that new technology platforms do not enter the country without being properly assessed by us as the regulator and we do not rush to market buying platforms that could on the public front, offer very positive results but at the back-end has a lot of negative social impacts on the people.

And so NICTA's role in this sense is to ensure that we have visibility on what we and other people are doing in this space. For us to go to the space where we have new technology platforms that come in, we must be in a position to regulate those platforms. The Board is for the people and we are not doing these things just because other countries are doing it or advance market does it, our decisions must reflect who and what we represent.

Our Board is here for the people and is focused on bringing the uncovered to the covered category.

This publication will share some highlights of the work we do in the non-coverage areas, giving access to non-privileged communities and helping to empower schools through the connect the schools' projects.

Through this publication we would also like to inform the general public that Universal Access Services (UAS) Scheme is here to help in the areas where it is not reached by telecommunication companies. We go there by using the funds that is collected from the telecommunication companies to do the work on behalf of the government.

Everything we do here is for the benefit of all and spectrum is the biggest asset we have and manage for the independent state of Papua New Guinea. And on that note, that forms the basis of what we do in the regulation space, and we are very careful on how we do things, to be open and transparent in all decisions.

Lastly, for us, this publication goes to showcase our new corporate plan which is now into its implementation stage and also our efforts and work towards assisting the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT) in reviewing the existing Act.

With that, happy reading and hope you find this publication useful.

Noel Mobiha
Chairman- NICTA Board



PACIFIC HEADS CALL FOR SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE

Heads of information and communication technologies (ICT) government agencies from eleven Pacific Island countries and two observers made the call at the inaugural Pacific ICT Dialogue held in Kokopo, East New Britain Province, on Monday 13 February 2023 under the theme “Smart Pacific One Voice” where a proposal by Papua New Guinea to host a meeting of the Pacific ICT Ministers in Papua New Guinea later in the year was also endorsed.

Discussions centred around regional collaboration, digital economy, and cyber security and critical digital infrastructure.

Participants committed to further strengthening regional cooperation and collaboration in the field of ICT to address common issues and challenges whilst capitalizing on opportunities created by advances in digital technology.

Participants further committed to continue efforts in enhancing close cooperation in the region to consolidate regional views on ICT issues, including the preparation for International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and Asia Pacific Telecommunication conferences and meetings.

Participants resolved to support the further development of digital economy in the Pacific by increasing access to technology and ICT infrastructure, development of human capacity, and improve telecommunication connectivity for government, citizens and businesses so as to accelerate the digital transformation of the Pacific Community which will in turn contribute to socio-economic growth, innovation and better delivery of services.

Key action points anticipated are establishment of a ITU subregional office in the Pacific, provision of an enabling environment for ICT development, digital innovation, creativity, and encouraging trusted and secured systems which promote the protection of data privacy, facilitate free and secure flow of information, and are resilient to cyber threats so that citizens can engage in online activities with confidence.

The Pacific ICT Dialogue was attended by Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, Solomon Islands, including an observer from the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise. Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, New Zealand, Cook Islands, and an observer from the Secretariat of the Pacific Community joined online.

Safer Internet Day 2023



As the world observes Safer Internet Day today on Tuesday 7 February 2023, the National Information Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) calls for a safer online experience for everyone including children and young people. The aim of Safer Internet Day is to promote the use of technology in a responsible, respectful, critical, and creative way, resulting in a safer and improved internet experience for all.

The internet offers many positive opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds.

Let us always be mindful of the inherent risks such as hacking, phishing scams, and identity theft, as well as the spread of misinformation and exposure to inappropriate or harmful content. The risks of using the internet for children include exposure to inappropriate or harmful content, such as violence and pornography. Children may also be at risk of online grooming and sexual exploitation by predators. They may also be at risk of cyberbullying and being bullied online. Additionally, children may be at risk of disclosing personal information or sharing inappropriate content online.

Parents and carers are encouraged to take a more proactive approach in teaching their children how to be more resilient and to exercise their critical reasoning skills whilst online.

Consistent with Governments Digital Safety policy and to ensure the safety of citizens including children while using the internet, various measures by the NICTA in collaboration with PNG Safer Internet Committee have been implemented, such as supporting public awareness campaigns to educate citizens about online risks and how to stay safe, providing resources and support for individuals and families to protect themselves from online harm and partnering with stakeholders to address online safety issues. It is essential that we increase our efforts to create a digital agenda that empowers and keeps safe our children.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the idea that having access to digital and online platforms is no longer a luxury, but a necessity for everyone.

Bridging the gap between those who have access to the internet and those who don't is a top priority for the NICTA. Bridging the gap for internet access is important because it can help to promote social and economic development, improve access to education and healthcare, and create opportunities for those who may otherwise be excluded from the digital economy

In conclusion, let us all take a moment to reflect on the importance of online safety and our role in promoting a positive and safe internet for all.

Today, on the occasion of Safer Internet Day 2023, let us commit to being kind and respectful towards others, actively seeking out positive opportunities to create and connect, and taking action against negative online behavior by reporting any illegal or inappropriate content. Together, let's create a safer and more positive online environment for everyone.

Happy Safer Internet Day and God bless Papua New Guinea!

KILA GULO-VUI
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NICTA

ICT Minister launch Connectivity Project for Maprik Secondary School

Maprik Secondary School in Maprik District, East Sepik Province is one of the ITU supported School under their project “Connect the Rural Community in the Pacific”. The object of the project is to enhance the students learning through the use of ICT – broadband connectivity.

Maprik Secondary caters for more than 1000 plus students from all Sepik Districts and being one of the best maintained and managed school. Due to the improved facility, the European Support Project (EU-STREIT) have approved the school to help facilitate capacity building for the farmers in Maprik District.

The broadband connectivity project which comprises of 20 computers, internet connectivity via satellite and e-library was completed in June 2022 and was launched in January 2023 by the Minister for ICT Hon. Timothy Masiu.



The UAS Secretariate

The objective of the Universal access and service secretariat is to bring ICT (Information and Communication Technology) services to remote areas of the country.

UAS has in place a Strategic Plan to provide four aim forms of communication; Mobile Broadband, Fixed Broadband, Radio, and Television broadcasting services.

These programs are structured to ensure people in the remote areas have access to these essential communication services.



Kapal HIGHLIGHTS challenges as a woman in ICT at the 2023 National Womens Day Celebration

"I have faced some challenges as a woman, striving in my profession as a female engineer at work and going home to play the role of a mother , is no easy feat"

International Girls in ICT Day is also about celebrating brave women in the field of ICT. One such example is NICTA's female Principal Engineer Ms.Molina Kapal, who's story is of bravery and courage. Ms. Kapal has been the driving force behind NICTA's Girls in ICT Awareness and the face of NICTA's Girls in ICT Tertiary Scholarship until recently.

Ms. Kapal was involved in a tragic incident whilst on duty travel 3 years ago and almost lost her life. This has resulted in her having facial impairment.

This experience has not stopped her from living her dream " to be a role model to young Papua New Guineans, especially females. Three years after that fateful night, Ms. Kapal for the first time came out to speak at the National Women's Day Celebration hosted by the National Capital District Commission (NCDC) in Port Moresby on Friday 24th of March 2023.

Ms. Kapal spoke about the challenges that she has overcome with her current circumstance but commends her employer,NICTA's past and present for its undivided support in ensuring that there is flexibility to allow her time for recovery from the tragedy.

Ms. Kapal has been with NICTA for the last 18 years after joining the organization as a fresh graduate after completing her studies at the Papua New Guinea University of Technology as an electrical engineering.

"Be prepared to be alone, it is challenging. One has to be mentally, and physically strong to be in this field," said Kapal at her first public appearance after 3 years.

I said to myself, that I want to be a role model for those that are coming up and I have been doing that for the last 18 years with NICTA. It was challenging, but the good thing is I had very supportive male colleagues and bosses who have supported and mentored me this far.

I have faced some challenges as a woman, striving in my profession as a female engineer at work and going home to play the role of a mother, is no easy feat , said Kapal.

"ICT has given a voice to woman. It has given women the visibility and the opportunity to equally participate in decision making. I realize and appreciate that ICT has given women of PNG the opportunity to be heard and seen." Said Kapal.

Kapal says her experience has given her the strength to push on in life and be an inspiration to others. Ms. Kapal has been spear heading NICTA Girls in ICT awareness programs over the years says she is committed to making a difference in her role as woman in the ICT space.





WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SOCIETY DAY 2023

THEME "EMPOWERING THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THROUGH INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES."

The international Community and Papua New Guinea celebrated the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day as observed by the International Telecommunications Union, the United Nations Agency specialized agency in Telecommunications and Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

The theme is on "Empowering the least developed countries through information and communication technologies." We join the global community in calling on our development partners to join hands for universal connectivity and digital transformation.

In making this call it is recognized that telecommunications/ICTs is a key enabler to accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development, while the spread of ICT and global interconnectedness has great potential to accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide, and to develop knowledge societies.

Accelerating broadband development is a considerable challenge, especially in hard-to-reach, rural and remote areas where topography and demography make the return-on-investment challenging in country like Papua New Guinea.

Investments in telecommunication/ICT services and technologies should also focus on all stages of development and deployment, including their mobilization for sustainable development at later stages.

I take this opportunity to assure the industry, the private sector and the public that the Marape Government through my Ministry, that Government remains committed to ensuring a conducive policy and regulatory environment to facilitate investment in the sector to drive digital transformation.

In this connection we introduced the Digital Government Policy 2020 and enabling legislation Digital Government Act 2020 and currently working on a suit of policies and enabling legislation the primary goal of ensuring policy and regulation is relevant, current and responsive to technology advances and citizens and consumer needs.

The National ICT Act 2009 is also under review as I announced a couple of weeks ago.

We have also reviewed the Universal Access Policy that is going through executive approval that will provide further clarity and direction in connecting the unconnected communities and citizens of our country.

We have made significant progress in digital connectivity in recent years particularly through mobile technology with signal now available to nearly 90 percent of our population. Much remains to be done in ensuring telecommunications and ICT services are widely available and affordable.

Affordability is one of the major barriers in connectivity to the most vulnerable or excluded populations. -cont-

We need to sustain current achievements and intensify efforts in promoting and financing telecommunications/ICTs for development. In terms of availability the industry and the regulatory system with policy guidance need to ensure Quality of Services are maintained and network outages are minimized.

With increasing accessibility and availability of telecommunications/ICT services and in particular Internet we also need challenges that come with these developments in terms of cybersecurity and the need to develop human capacity to design, maintain and operate systems but also for citizens to be able to engage meaningfully in increasingly digital connected world.

The COVID-19 pandemic crisis has not only highlighted the critical role of telecommunications/ICTs for continued functioning of societies but has also brought to the fore the digital inequalities between and within countries.

The Government through my Ministry remains committed to ensuring the development of the telecommunications sector envisage an information society, empowered by the interconnected world, where telecommunications/ICTs enable and accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for everyone.

We stand committed to leveraging telecommunications/ICTs as a key enabler for achieving development goals and the UN Sustainable Development Goals that integrate in a balanced manner the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

It now gives me great pleasure to announce that we anticipate further reduction in internet costs due to heightened competition between the telecommunications operators, Vodafone PNG, Digicel PNG and Telikom, during the remainder of 2023.

This anticipated reduction in prices is attributed mainly to the aggressive infrastructure expansion plans of both Vodafone PNG and Digicel PNG which will not only heighten competition but will further the accessibility for more people and communities,

bringing new opportunities and benefits, including financial and health services and progress the overall digital transformation agenda through bridging the digital divide.

Vodafone PNG, a recent entrant into the market, is substantially increasing in its tower sites this year, putting it in direct competition with Digicel PNG and Telikom Ltd.

Digicel PNG, the largest mobile operator in the country, in compliance with requirements set by the Government, continues to expand its infrastructure by building an additional 115 towers by the end of the year.

The intensified competition between these three players in the telecommunications sector will likely result in further reduction of retail data and voice prices for PNG citizens, ultimately benefiting the nation's economy.

The significant impact these price reductions will have on the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and foreign direct investment (FDI) in PNG. The reduced cost of internet services will enable SMEs to expand their digital presence, streamline their operations, and reach a broader customer base.

I also take this opportunity to announce that my department will continue consultation on the Media Development Policy review and will begin its provincial survey program beginning by next week.

The department will release survey questions to stakeholders and the public via SMS blasts, social media and the traditional media.

I am happy with the progress so far with the consultation in regard to the Media Policy review and I anticipate bringing to Cabinet proposed media development policy recommendations.

HON. TIMOTHY MASIU, MP
Minister for Information and
Communication Technology
and Member for South Bougainville

STAFF CORNER

Meet Fredah



Corporate Services

Fredah is part of the Human Resource Branch of the Corporate Services Department (CSD).

CSD has three (3) branches: Human Resource and Administration, Finance and Information Technology.

- responsible for training, staff development and recruitment functions including administering employees' terms and conditions of employment.
- Also responsible for compiling NICTA's annual budget estimates, debt collection, insurance and personnel matters as well as coordinating the information technology (IT) needs and requirements for line technical departments

Full name: Fredah Peter

Position Title: Front Desk Receptionist

Department: Corporate Service

Years of Service: 5 years

Personal Information:

Place of origin: East New Britain, New Ireland and West Sepik

Education level: Diploma in Business Management (Kokopo Business College)

Marital status: Married

Typical Day at work: check my email, mind the phone and serve customers/ visitors.

Motivation: being part of an organization that regulates ICT in PNG and be able to be aware of the ever- changing technology.

What you like about NICTA: The role NICTA plays in the ICT Industry that contributes to the economic and social development of PNG.

Other Sections within NICTA

- Office of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
The Office of the CEO has three (3) branches: Corporate Legal Services, Special Projects and Corporate Secretariat Services
- Engineering & Resource Planning Department (ERPD)
· has two (2) branches: Resource Planning and ICT Standards & Policy.
- Economics, Consumer and International Affairs (ECIA)
· has three (3) branches: Economic Regulation, and Consumer Affairs & International Affairs.
- Universal Access Scheme Secretariat (UAS)
- Licensing & Enforcement Department (LED)
· has two (2) branches: Licensing & Business Relations and Enforcement and Compliance

STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



STAFF TRAINED TO SUPPORT RECRUITMENT PROCESS

STAFF TRAINING

Senior Staff trained to partake in NICTA's new structure job description formulation and job evaluations

Twenty four (24) senior staff including Directors, Managers and selected representatives from the four (4) Departments and Office of the Chief Executive Officer attended 4 days training on Job Description and Hay Job Evaluation.

The objective of the training is to prepare attendees for job evaluation of new positions under the restructure and for job benchmarking for old positions on the current structure. .

From this training Directors and Managers are expected to finalize job descriptions for newly created positions followed by job evaluation for these positions.

The training was facilitated by Concept Training, a specialized Papua New Guinean Human Resource Training Consulting Firm.

Nongkas UN Cyberspace Fellow

To celebrate this year's #InternationalWomensDay theme DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality, the Australia University (AU) supported Mrs Andirauga Nongkas, Manager Consumer Affairs as Papua New Guinea's United Nations Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellow.

Like Mrs Nongkas AU has also supported other women across the world to undertake this important Fellowship which elevates women's voices in UN cyber discussions

DFAT Director Cyber Cooperation, Craig Gillies, presented Mrs Nongkas with her Fellowship package, which included inspiring stories about the achievements of women leaders.

This support is made possible Under the Cyber and Critical Tech Cooperation Program

AU supports United Nations Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellows from PNG, Fiji, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Nauru, Philippines, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Vietnam.



BITS & PIECES

About NICTA

National Information and communication Technology Authority (NICTA) is an independent regulatory authority established through the NICT Act 2009 (Act). NICTA is the primary regulator of the ICT industry in Papua New Guinea, with specific focus on telecommunications, radio communication and broadcasting.

The functions and powers of NICTA are set out in Part 2 of the Act. The primary objective of the Act is to ensure that the ICT industry contributes to the greatest extent possible the long term economic and social development of Papua New Guinea.

NICTA IN THE REGIONS



NICTA's Principal Regional Radio Inspector, Mr. Louise Basiou who is in charge of Momase Regional Office

NICTA PHYSICAL LOCATIONS

NICTA's Headquarters is in Port Moresby while three (3) Regional Offices are located in Lae Morobe Province, Mt.Hagen, Western Highlands Province and Kokopo, East New Britain Province.

NICTA HEAD OFFICE

Punaha ICT Haus
Corner of Croton and Frangapini Street, Hohola
Port Moresby, National Capital District

MOMASE

3rd Street, Morobe Haus
2nd Floor, Lae, 411
Morobe Province

HIGHLANDS

Gabina Haus - Section 5, Allotment 8
Unit 5, First Floor
Mount Hagen Drive
Mt.Hagen, 281

NEW GUINEA ISLANDS

Porchley Street, Level 1
New Agmark Building
Kokopo 611
East New Britain Province.

NICTA POSTAL ADDRESS

POST OFFICE BOX 8444
BOROKO 111
PORT MORESBY, NCD
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

photo captions!



CAPTION: Acting Director ECIA, Polume Lume, Principal Analyst Tariffs, Charles Kerua & a member of the ICT industry



CAPTION: NICTA Female staff after receiving food packs and shopping vouchers as Mother's Day gifts.



CAPTION: Team NICTA at the 2023 Girls in ICT Day Forum



Caption : NICTA female staff at the 2023 International Girls in ICT Day Forum . L- R.Jennifer Keingit, Jennifer Opavilla and Michelle Aria



Caption : Consumer Affairs Branch with NCD participating schools in the 2023 Safer Internet Day School Ambassador Program

A FIRST FOR NICTA GIRLS IN ICT DAY - FORUM



2023 INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY FORUM

NICTA joined the global community again this year on Thursday 27th April to celebrate International Girls in ICT Day 2023 (GICTD'23), as observed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the lead United Nations Agency for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) under the theme “Digital Skills for Life”.

Main objectives of the International Girls in ICT initiative with the overall goal to bridge the gender disparity in the ICT industry.

- Entourage girls and young women to pursue ICT and STEM education,
- Inspire girls and young women to work in ICT and STEM careers, and
- Community engagement and promote collaboration through partnerships.

This year NICTA celebrated by hosting a Forum. The forum discussions were focused on the theme “Digital Skills for Life” as well as being consistent with the Government’s broader goals of promoting and maintaining gender equality and women and girls’ empowerment.

The forum brought together different relevant stakeholders that are also undertaking gender equality and or women and girls’ empowerment programs in their various spaces with the main aim to identify the ‘gaps’ based on the areas of discussion listed above as well as to foster collaboration and partnership in leveraging and strengthening our voices and programs/activities to bridge the gap of digital skills for life as well as the women and girls’ empowerment addressing the digital gender disparity in this fast-evolving digital era.

Female students from various secondary and tertiary institutions were also part of this Gender Equality and Women & Girls’ Empowerment Dialogue.

The main goal of the Girls in ICT 2023 Forum was to identify the gaps in the digital skills for life, gender equality, and the empowerment of women and girls as well as to strengthen collaboration and partnership.

International Girls In ICT

The proposal for NICTA Girls in ICT Tertiary Scholarship was announced by NICTA on World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (May 17th) 2012. Launch of the NICTA GICT Scholarship was done in 2016.

Objective of the Scholarship is to;

- Encourage more girls to pursue a career in ICT in PNG
- Minimize the gender imbalance in ICT sector in PNG
- Promote and contribute to ITU's ** global initiative on GICT
- Implement Government policy on empowering women & girls
- Meet social obligations to have an educated ICT society

The scholarship is aimed at those who have completed grade 12 and have been accepted to study any of the ICT related programs at a NICTA recognized tertiary institution in the country. It covers full tuition for duration of the program, book allowance, fortnightly stipend and transport costs.

Since its inception, 11 female Papua New Guineans have passed through the program majority are now in the workforce. Each year NICTA awards 4 scholarships. This year (2023), four have passed out, 2 from the Divine Word University and 2 from PNG University of Technology. This month also NICTA has signed 4 new scholarships with four awardees, all are studying at the University of Technology.

Currently NICTA has sixteen (16) existing scholarships;(including 4 new signed beginning of this year -2023)

15 from the University of Technology

1 from the University of Papua New Guinea

ITU's Global Initiative ** International Girls in ICT Day

International Girls in ICT Day is an initiative of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Initiated by the ITU in October 2010, it aims at creating a global environment that empower and encourage girls and young women to consider careers in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). It also aims to promote gender equality in a male dominated field of ICT.

International Girls in ICT Day is commemorated on the 4th Thursday of April every year.

NICTA pilots school ambassador Program, advocating on safe internet use



“Safer Internet Day” or SID as it is commonly known is now a global movement which started as an initiative of the European Union (EU) SaferBorders project in 2004. Safer Internet Day (SID) has grown beyond its geographical borders and is now celebrated in approximately 180 countries globally.

Papua New Guinea through its Information and Communications Technology (ICT) regulator, National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) joined this global campaign initiative in 2019, fifteen years after its inception. The day is organized by the InSafe/INHOPE network of European Safer Internet Centres (SIC) with support of the European Commission.

SID is celebrated annually, usually in the month of February. This year NICTA joined the campaign advocating on creating a safer and better internet space for all where internet users are empowered to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively.

NICTA’s Consumer Affairs Branch has been on the forefront of running the PNG SID Campaign annually for the last 4 years. Activities commemorating annual SID campaign target end users of internet.

These are mostly stakeholder engagement oriented involving supporters of safer internet in the country known as the PNG Safe Internet Committee (PNGSIC). PNG SID Campaigns run for the whole month of February, covering radio talk backs, print publications, information sharing through online platforms and events.

This year with the theme “Together for a better internet”, NICTA piloted the “NICTA SID School Ambassador Program”. This program targets High and Secondary Schools in the country.

Over one (1) hundred students and teachers from 19 schools throughout the country are participating in this year’s program.

The program aims to encourage and support participating students and schools drive the message of responsible internet use within their respective schools and communities.

Participating schools include, Wawin National School of Excellence, Bugandi, Busu, Bumayong, Gerehu, Kilakila, Koiari Park, Laloki, Kokopo, Malabunga, Utmei, Hagen Park Fatima, Kitip, Notre Dame, Banz Lutheran, Waghi Valley, Kui Wamp & Kitip, Secondary schools.

These schools are from, National Capital District and Central, Morobe, East New Britain, Jiwaka and Western Highlands Provinces.

The school ambassador program started with regional workshops, equipping participating students and teachers with necessary information on the advantages and disadvantages of using the internet, especially social media.

Topics covered issues such as cyber bullying, online wellbeing, how to identify false information online, privacy, data protection and online rights.

From these workshops, students can now extend individual campaigns in schools targeting peers, raising awareness on the dangers of using the internet and how to be safe online. These students will now be identified as NICTA SID Ambassadors.

Responses from pioneer ambassadors have been somewhat positive signaling certainty in the future of this program in respective schools.

NICTA PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2023

NICTA's Public Consultations are made in accordance with section 219 and 229 of the National Information and Communications Technology Act, 2009 ("the Act"),

GUIDELINE FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS (ISPs)

Notice to conduct a public consultation on the draft "Guideline for Internet Service Providers (ISPs)".

The draft Guideline sought to provide comprehensive guidance to ISPs on a range of regulatory administration and other matters affecting their operation, including more recent issues associated with cybersecurity.

The public consultation was conducted over a period of four (4) weeks, which commenced on 25th January and ended on the 22nd of February 2023.

- 1. Draft 2600 MHz Band Plan and Background Paper**
- 2. Draft 3500 MHz Band Plan for IMT and Background Paper**
- 3. Draft Spectrum Assignment and Licensing Methodology**

The Band Plans propose the use of the radiofrequency spectrum in 2600 MHz and 3500 MHz for mobile communication services in Papua New Guinea.

The Licensing Paper proposes alternative approach to licensing of certain spectrum bands as an alternative to traditional approaches of licensing spectrum on a first-come first served basis.

The public consultation commenced on the 12th of May and ended on the 7th of June 2023.

Draft 60 GHz Band Plan

The Band Plan propose the use of the radiofrequency spectrum in the 60 GHz for mobile communication services in Papua New Guinea.

The public consultation was conducted over a period of 4 weeks from 30th June to the 31st of July 2023.

These Notices can be found on NICTA's Public Registry at www.nicta.gov.pg.

Contact our Spectrum Engineers on 3033200 or email spectrum@nicta.gov.pg for further information on these Public Consultations.

World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23)

World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC) are held every three to four years to review, and, if necessary, revise the Radio Regulations, the international treaty governing the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

Revisions are made on the basis of an agenda determined by the ITU Council, which takes into account recommendations made by previous world radiocommunication conferences.

The general scope of the agenda of world radiocommunication conferences is established four to six years in advance, with the final agenda set by the ITU Council two years before the conference, with the concurrence of a majority of Member States.

Under the terms of the ITU Constitution, a WRC can:

- revise the Radio Regulations and any associated Frequency assignment and allotment Plans;
- address any radiocommunication matter of worldwide character;
- instruct the Radio Regulations Board and the Radiocommunication Bureau, and review their activities;
- determine Questions for study by the Radiocommunication Assembly and its Study Groups in preparation for future Radiocommunication Conferences.

The WRC-23 will be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 20 November to 15 December 2023

NICTA is the state entity mandated to represent the interests of Papua New Guinea at the WRC-23. After the completion of the last WRC-19 NICTA has been participating in the WRC-23 cycle beginning 2020. NICTA representative staff attended the APT Regional Preparatory meetings (APGs).

From the four APG meetings, the Asia Pacific (Region 3) regional common proposal are developed on each of the WRC-23 Agenda items.

The WRC-23 Agenda Item are;

- Fixed, Mobile and Broadcasting issues
- Aeronautical and Maritime issues
- Science Issues
- Satellite Issues
- General Issues

For the WRC-23 NICTA has been following and making input contributions on several WRC-23 agenda items that address the interest of our clients and stakeholders, both nationally and internationally which are;

- International satellite operators that operate GEO, MEO and LEO satellites networks.
- National statutory bodies and authorities including CASA, Niuskies Pacific Ltd, NMSA
- In-country Mobile Network Operators (MNO) and other ICT service providers

A NICTA delegation will attend the WRC-23 to participate in the plenary and group technical meetings to ensure that PNG's input contributions to the APG are adopted and to get the best outcome for PNG in radiocommunication and satellite frequency band allocations for current and future studies and allocations.

Q1 & 2 of 2023 IN PICTURES





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