

ISSUE 2 · JULY - DECEMBER 2023

NICTA IN PERSPECTIVE

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



National Information & Communications
Technology Authority



CAPTION: Seven years after playing host, this year PNG once more hosted the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) 16th Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-16). This was held in Port Moresby from the 30th of August to 1st of September, 2023.

The 2-day meeting held at the Hilton Hotel had over 160 registered participants from 14 countries, the forum included attendees not only from the Pacific but also from various countries across the Asia-Pacific region, both in-person and virtually.

In line with APT's strategic plan, the PRFP sought to provide practical assistance and understanding of policy and regulatory issues to Pacific countries by discussing issues of particular concern and interest.

INSIDE:



OUTCOME of the inaugural
Pacific ICT Minister's Meet



UAS GabaSpot Partnership



MOU to Strengthen efforts

NICTA -WHO ARE WE

OUR MANDATE

NICTA is an independent regulatory authority established by 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

Welcome to this edition of NICTA In Perspective. This issue covers the last two quarters of 2023.

It has been a hectic few months for us as an organization as Papua New Guinea played host to the first ever Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue on the 28th and 29th of August, soon after followed by the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) 16th Policy and Regulatory Forum for the Pacific (PRFP 16). These significant regional meetings were a success under the chairmanship of Minister for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Honourable Timothy Masiu, MP.

The National ICT Authority made a number of progresses in the area of collaboration and renewed intergovernmental agreements to strengthen mandated enforcement responsibilities. NICTA's Universal Access Services Secretariat (UAS) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to improve on digital learning and teaching in Flexible Distance Learning in the Education system. In the area of collaboration and renewed intergovernmental agreements to strengthen mandated enforcement responsibilities. NICTA's Universal Access Services Secretariat (UAS) entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) to improve on digital learning and teaching in Flexible Distance Learning in the Education system.

Several consultations were conducted to address new regulatory requirements, encourage and accommodate growth and demand, assigning more spectrum space to allow for flexibility and increase opportunities for more efficient spectrum use.

NICTA also celebrated PNG's 48th Independence with the launch of this magazine, a platform aimed at educating, informing and raising awareness.

While we value our most important asset, our staff, this period our Engineering Department lost an important member of its team. This is indeed a loss for the organization.

A highlight to end this year would be PNG's representation by NICTA at the 2023 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (WR-23) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 20 November to 15 December 2023.

While we reflect on the year, we learn on our shortfalls and use our wins as a tool to keep pushing boundaries in our mandate to be ensuring that all Papua New Guineans have access to affordable and efficient ICT services.

Happy Reading and see you in the new year when we bring you another edition of NICTA Perspective.

Kila Gulo -Vui
Chief Executive Officer

PACIFIC ICT MINISTERS' DIALOGUE 2023

"SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - Creating a Digital Future together for the Pacific"

28th-29th AUGUST, 2023 | PORT MORESBY & NEW IRELAND



PACIFIC ICT MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE PACIFIC

The Pacific Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Ministerial Dialogue (Dialogue) was held on 28 August 2023 in APEC Haus in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. It was hosted by the Government of Papua New Guinea through the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology and supported by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT).

The Dialogue was attended by thirteen (13) Pacific Island Countries and Territories (Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu) along with the United Nations (UN) specialized agency, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), APT, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat, and other regional organizations and development partners, under the theme of "Smart Pacific, One Voice – Creating a Digital Future Together for the Pacific".

The key objectives of this Dialogue were to set the course for the Pacific digital transformation journey, strengthen regional cooperation and representation, identify and implement digital solutions to address our unique challenges, and build an integrated, secure, and inclusive digital Pacific.

Ministers adopt the Lagatoi Declaration and agreed on priority areas for a digital future together

The Ministers focused on six priority areas: Digital Transformation, Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Digital Infrastructure, Digital Security and Trust, Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development, and Regional Cooperation and Representation.

Way forward

As way forward, the Ministers re-affirmed their joint commitment for a well-connected Pacific region through digital infrastructure and services, called for increased regional solidarity, representation and commitment to address regional challenges and threats, and to advance our common goals, while promoting inclusivity, equality, and security in a digitally connected era.

The Ministers encouraged strengthening communication and coordination among existing regional mechanisms, including the Council of Regional Organizations of the Pacific (CROP) and ICT Working Groups.

The Ministers tasked Senior Officials to develop an ICT and Digital Transformation Action Plan and agreed to meet again at the next Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue in New Caledonia in 2025 to monitor progress and implementation.

Future Plans

The 16th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-16) **30 August 2023 - 01 September 2023** **Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea**



The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) organized the 16th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-16) from 30 August to 1 September 2023 in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea with physical attendance as well as virtual/online participation through Zoom meeting platform (i.e. hybrid meeting).

The forum was hosted by the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), Papua New Guinea, and supported by the generous contributions from Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, Australia and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

PRFP-16 was preceded by the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue (28-29 August 2023)", which would adopt a Ministerial Declaration on the theme "Connected Pacific - Enabling Aspirations through ICT". Accordingly, synergizing these events, PRFP-16 organized its sessions based on the priority areas agreed in the Ministerial Declaration to support the development of telecommunications and ICT policies in Pacific countries and provide an opportunity to share policy and regulatory trends, and enhance their capacity to address emerging opportunities and challenges.

The sessions of the PRFP-16 was organized on topics such as Digital Infrastructure, Digital Innovation, Security and Trust, Digital Capacity Building and Skills, and Disaster Management, which are also strategic pillars of the APT's Strategic Plan for 2021-2023.

The PRFP-16 provided a Roundtable opportunity for Ministers and Head of Regulators to share their recent policy and regulation issues and experiences. In addition, it also allocated time for a Business Dialogue to provide an opportunity for the ICT industry to share their insights and experiences and for ICT policymakers and regulators to discuss new challenges and opportunities for empowering the Digital Transformation.

Over 160 registered participants from 14 countries attended not only from the Pacific but also from various countries across the Asia-Pacific region, both in-person and virtually.

From those discussions and in line with APT's strategic plan, the PRFP will seek to provide practical assistance and understanding of policy and regulatory issues to Pacific countries by discussing issues of particular concern and interest to them. APT PRFP 17 will be held in Tonga in 2024.

OUTCOME REPORT ON THE ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY (APT) 16TH POLICY AND REGULATION FORUM FOR PACIFIC (PRFP-16)

30TH AUGUST – 01ST SEPTEMBER 2023, HILTON HOTEL, PORT MORESBY

SUMMARY

Most Pacific countries have unique geographic characteristic, which presents both challenges and opportunities. Some of the common challenges faced by Pacific countries include achieving international/regional connectivity, deploying innovative ICTs throughout societies in response to accelerating digital transformation; addressing the sub-regional, generational, and gender digital divide and effectively managing disasters caused by climate change. Considering these circumstances, it is desirable to have common platforms that enable sharing of experiences in regard to the status of policies and regulations for telecommunications and ICT development and to discuss way forwards that are beneficial to each Pacific Island country and the wider Pacific community.

The Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP) is a Pacific sub-region platform of APT to serve this purpose and it has become a premium event to address common challenges in telecommunication and ICT development issues faced by the Pacific countries. In line with APT's Strategic Action Plan, the PRFP meetings have sought to provide practical assistance and understanding of policy and regulatory issues to Pacific countries by discussing issues of particular concern and interest. The forum is held annually in nominated Pacific countries since its inception in 2009.

Accordingly, Papua New Guinea (PNG) through National Information & Communication Authority (NICTA) recently convened the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) 16th Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-16) in Hilton Hotel, Port Moresby from 30th August to 1st September 2023 with a hybrid format (both physical and virtual/online attendance through APT Zoom meeting) under an umbrella theme of 'Connecting Pacific – Enabling Aspiration through Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The PRFP-16 was attended by a total participant of 152 comprising of High Level and Senior Officials from:

Member Economies Australia, Cambodia (Virtual), Fiji, Japan, New Zealand (Virtual), Kiribati, Palau, Marshall Islands (Virtual), Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, Samoa, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga;

Affiliated Members: Amazon, Apple South Asia, JTEC, CCK, KACIFIC, GSMA, HUAWEI Technologies, MTSFB, OMNISPAC, INMARSAT, ONEWEB ASIA, INTELSAT, STARLINK Australia, VODAFONE Singapore

International Organizations: Asian Development Bank (ADB), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS), Pacific Islands Telecommunication Association (PITA), Oceania Cyber Security Centre (OCSC), TATA Communications, and USAID

Other Organizations: New Caledonia Government.

The APT PRFP-16 had a total of eleven (11) Sessions inclusive of the Opening Session, the Plenary, a Closed Session for Policy Makers and Regulators, and the Thematic Sessions.

The following provides a Summary of the Key Outcomes of the thematic sessions of the APT PRFP-16 meeting recently concluded;

i. Updates on Policy and Regulation and Implementation of the Ministerial Declaration

A notable outcome of the APT PRFP-16 through this session was the presentation of the Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation for the Pacific which was adopted and signed on Monday, 28th August 2023 just prior to the APT PRFP-16. It was reported in the APT PRFP-16 that Ministers from the Pacific unanimously agreed on six (6) priorities and this has been reflected in the Lagatoi Declaration as follows;

- (1) Accelerating Digital Transformation in the Pacific,
- (2) Facilitating Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship,
- (3) Developing Digital Infrastructure and Enabling Digital Islands,
- (4) Digital Security and Trust,
- (5) Strengthening Partnership for Disaster Management, and
- (6) Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development.

Subsequently, Hon. Mr. Timothy Masiu, MP and Minister for ICT called on all members of the PRFP to be instrumental in driving the pathway of the Pacific region's digital transformation through the implementation of the Lagatoi Declaration and its aforementioned 6 key pillars.

The Honorable Minister also reaffirmed calls for both the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to increase their focus on the Pacific Region. He further emphasized that working together as a region will strengthen mechanisms to ensure that no one is left behind in this fast-evolving and changing technological world.

ii. Business Dialogue on ICT Regulatory Policy to Empower Digital Transformation

This session brought together top executives from the ICT industry, including our very own key industry players of PNG DataCo Limited and Digicel PNG Limited who shared alongside respective panelists their insights and experiences and further discussed with ICT policymakers and regulators the new challenges and opportunities for empowering digital transformations.

iii. Accelerating Digital Transformation in the Pacific

This session was moderated by Mr. Russell Woruba, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, PNG who guided the discussions around the current status of digital government, policy, and regulation in the Pacific and further explored how digital transformation can be materialized through data openness and sharing, but not limited to. It also presented examples of building digital data platforms as a key element of digital government.

iv. Facilitating Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship

This agenda is an ongoing market drive to maximize new digital technologies and capabilities to fulfill the changing ICT market landscape and requirements. Governments are driving digital transformation across the country by encouraging businesses to innovate and promoting entrepreneurship. Whereby, this session explored ways to spread digital innovation across society with stakeholders who have driven new business processes and cultures through digital innovation, as well as reflect on current policies and regulations and identify implications.

v. Developing Digital Infrastructure and Enabling Digital Islands

This session was moderated by Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui, CEO of NICTA who led the discussions on the challenges of building and developing digital infrastructure in Pacific countries and provided and or shared an update on initiatives to improve connectivity. It also discussed the technical and policy/regulatory aspects of addressing challenges related to Quality of Service (QoS) in the context of the telecommunications environment in Pacific countries and provided insights into a way forward.

vi. Digital Security and Trust

Ms. Caroline Greenway, NICTA Independent Expatriate Board Director moderated this session, The discussions in this session saw the current status of losses such as disruption of critical ICT infrastructure and leakage of personal information due to cyber-attacks, which have emerged as a global risk. The discussions also explored ways to ensure the stable provision of online platform services and to establish a secure and reliable digital environment by overcoming bias and securing the reliability of new automation technologies such as AI.

**vii. Strengthening Partnerships for Disaster Management
(Joint session with World Food Programme)**

As Pacific region has faced many disasters, including volcanic eruptions, cyclones, and earthquakes. Managing effectively disasters in the Pacific is critical to the stable development of societies and the security of citizens, this session provided an update on policies and strategies to ensure reliable and resilient telecommunications/ICT infrastructure and services by leveraging ICT technologies in all phases of disaster management and also discussed how the Low Earth Orbit (LEO) constellation would facilitate disaster management including disaster communication. The discussions also explored and shared insights on the development of collaborative partnerships between government and stakeholders including NGOs.

viii. Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development.

In the age of digital transformation, the digital divide, whether driven by age or gender, is not only an economic risk for the Pacific but also a factor that is slowing down the digital transformation itself by increasing inequality. To thrive in the digital age, a key challenge is to increase digital literacy - the ability to not only understand and utilize ICT technologies but also to critically accept and analyze them. Thus, recognizing the challenges and gaps in promoting digital literacy in the Pacific region, including limited ICT infrastructure, accessibility and affordability, gender digital divide, and cultural diversity, this session discussed policy challenges to improve digital literacy, including how to enhance the capacity to use digital technologies and recognize misinformation. text

WORKSHOP ON NICTA ACT 2009 REVIEW A SUCCESS



Photo Caption : Part Of NICTA Management ,NICTA Board
& Officers from the Office of Legislative Council

* Abstracted from a REPORT prepared by
Corporate Secretary-NICTA Board

The two (2) days NICTA Act Review workshop held at the Loloata Island Resort from 11- 12th October 2023 turned out to be a success.

NICTA Board and management team collectively discussed the challenges faced over the years with administering the NICT Act and possible solutions to improving and modernizing the legislation to make it more relevant to today's ICT climate.

A few key suggestions included a review of the licensing regime under the Act and policy implementation from Government. A consolidated report on this workshop was prepared and submitted to the Office of the State Solicitor and the Office of the Legislative Counsel in preparation for future amendments.

The NICT Act review is being spearheaded by the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT).

This review is being undertaken jointly with the Department of Information and Communication Technology ("DICT") and the Ministry for Information and Communications Technology, as custodians of policy development in the ICT space. In an effort to produce a revised legislation that supports industry growth and development

"Since its inception in 2009, the National Information and Communication Technology Act ("NICT ACT") has not undergone a review to update and modernize the legislation.

It has been in operation for over ten years; and in an industry that is constantly moving, a review is necessary to ensure regulatory policy is in line with both local industry and global developments.

"NICTA took a proactive approach by conducting the workshop and preparing the discussion paper ahead of time so once the Department is ready to roll out public consultation, we can have our input readily available to present to them",.....Ms.Kanimba.



GABASPOT WIFI A COMMUNITY PROJECT

WHAT IS THE UAS FUND ?

Under the Universal Access and Service (UAS) Fund, the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) implements UAS Programs during identified planning periods. Programs are implemented through a series of Projects. These are designed by NICTA in consultation with relevant stakeholders. All projects and overall UAS Fund operating plans, take account of available financial, technical and human resources.

The UAS Fund was established through the National ICT Act 2009 to promote long-term economic and social development of Papua New Guinea by funding approved UAS Projects that will encourage the development of ICT infrastructure and improve the availability of ICT services within Papua New Guinea, including in rural communities.

All UAS Programs and Projects are guided by the key principles of;

- 1.Co-Location /infrastructure Sharing
- 2.Social Inclusion
- 3.Geographic Coverage
- 4.Promote Private Sector Investment
- 5.Encourage Competition
- 6.Promote Consumer Interest
- 7.Sustainability
- 8.Foster Economic and Social Development
- 9.Consultation, Transparency and Accountability
- 10.Quality of Service
- 11.Technology Neutrality

COMMUNITY NETWORKS PROJECT (Gabagaba Village)

The Gabaspot Community Network Project which was launched on the 29th of September this year (2023) by Minister for Information and Communication Technology, Hon.Timothy Masiu. This project is expected to impact about 5000 villagers including students, villagers and the general public of Gababaga village in Central Province.

The Community Networks Project is a partnership between NICTA and the Internet Society (ISOC). The concept was developed by ISOC as a grassroots initiative that aims to bridge the digital divide by providing internet access to communities that lack reliable connectivity.

NICTA has delivered through the project a building, broadband connectivity with a wireless local area network and computers for the community network.

The intention of this community networks project is to empower communities, foster digital inclusion, and offer innovative solutions to bridge the digital divide.

The Community Facility has 16 computers, equipped with an e-library to benefit students who can use the resources free of charge. The facility is also equipped with a solar power system and a standby generator.

Project Partner lead, Mr. Guise Vere is a person living with Disability but has not let his physical state deter his vision to help his community.

Mr.Vere has decided to use this facility to provide necessary ICT service to the community, especially students who can use the internet cafe.



ITUWRC
DUBAI 2023

**Taken from ERP 2023 year in review
report - Photo : ITU Flickr Account**

The 2023 International Telecommunications Union (ITU) World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-23) was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates from 20 November to 15 December 2023. This treaty-making conference culminates four years of technical studies and collaborations at global, regional and country level relating to the revision of the Radio Regulation, which governs the use of the radio-frequency spectrum and the geostationary-satellite and non-geostationary-satellite orbits.

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

As the administration representing Papua New Guinea, NICTA participated in the four-week conference making contributions to the work of each working Party while at the same time defending PNG's individual and multi country proposals made to the conference.

PNG's proposals to the conference which resulted in successful outcome by way of resolution included:

- - to consider, in accordance with Resolution 247 (WRC 19), the use of high-altitude platform stations as IMT base stations (HIBS) in the mobile service in certain frequency bands below 2.7 GHz already identified for IMT, on a global or regional level;
- to consider a new aeronautical mobile-satellite (R) service (AMS(R)S) allocation in accordance with Resolution 428 (WRC 19) for both the Earth-to-space and space-to-Earth directions of aeronautical Very High Frequency (VHF) communications in all or part of the frequency band 117.975-137 MHz, while preventing any undue constraints on existing VHF systems operating in the AM(R)S, the ARNS, and in adjacent frequency bands;
- to harmonize the use of the frequency band 12.75-13.25 GHz (Earth-to-space) by earth stations on aircraft and vessels communicating with geostationary space stations in the fixed-satellite service globally, in accordance with Resolution 172 (WRC 19);
- Proposal for Future Agenda item to study regulatory provisions for protection of GSO FSS and BSS networks from unacceptable interference from non-GSO FSS systems in portions of the frequency bands 3700-4200 MHz, 5925-6725 MHz, 10.7-14.5 GHz, 17.3-20.2 GHz and 27.5-30 GHz in which Article 22 Equivalent Power Flux Density (efpd) limits apply.

NICTA PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN JULY AND DECEMBER 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"),

Review on Call for Comments on Draft 60 GHz Spectrum Band Plan

Draft 60 GHz Spectrum Band Plan
The Band Plans 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 period of four weeks commencing 30th June and ended on 31st July 2023

DRAFT 600 MHz AND 800MHz BAND PLANS

The Draft Band Plans proposed the use of the 600MHz and 800MHz radiofrequency spectrum for mobile telecommunication services in Papua New Guinea to support the Government Digital Transformation Policy.

This consultation ended on Friday 29th December 2023.

Operator Licensing for the Provision of Low Earth Orbit Satellite Services in PNG

The National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) is responsible for the regulation of telecommunications in PNG, including the licensing of operators who provide or offer telecommunications services.

NICTA held a public consultation to seek the views of the industry and of interested members of the public and other stakeholders on appropriate arrangements, if any, for licensing the provision of Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellite services in PNG.

LEO satellite services have many advantages for particular customer segments, and NICTA seeks to realize those advantages for PNG at the earliest time, but within a suitable regulatory framework that best protects end user welfare and the continued overall development of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector in PNG.

The Public Consultation discussion paper was published on NICTA website to facilitate discussion on the issues associated with LEOs.

This public consultation commenced on Monday 14 August 2023 and ran for four weeks ending on Monday 11 September 2023.

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

NICTA SIGNS MoA WITH THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 9th August 2023. Today's signing of this Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) and the National Department of Education (DoE) signifies the commencement of a partnership between these two statutory authorities in rolling out Flexible Open Distance Education (FODE) services using online platform to six (6) pilot project sites in the country. More FODE centers will be added after the pilot project.

This MoA comes about as a result of an earlier successful trial run by DoE on the web-based School and Learning Management System (SLMS) between March and May of this year in Port Moresby.

From this result, the DoE has now reached out to NICTA through its Universal Access and Service (UAS) Scheme which exists to promote long term socio-economic development in Papua New Guinea. In consultation with NICTA (UAS) this MoA has come about extending this service throughout the country.



The pilot project will be trialed in six (6) locations targeting 3700 students at an estimated cost of K600 000 for a period of two (2) years. Centres to be trialed include; National Capital District Head Office (Central) NCD Head Office (NCD), Daru, Lae, Goroka and Tari Town.

This project will be jointly funded by the Universal Access Fund which is administered by the UAS Scheme and DoE.

Through this Agreement, NICTA will be responsible for content digitalization, broadband connectivity, training and smart devices while DoE will be responsible for Information Technology (IT) audit, infrastructure, power, skill staff, administration, security and sustainability plan of the project.

With the Government's motto of leaving no one behind, the Department of Education (DoE) through its FODE has been providing second chance to many drop-outs in the form of upgrades and standard curriculum using FODE.

This project is significant as it will provide access to thousands of students who cannot have access to formal education due to limited space, low grade point average (GPA) or work commitment.

This will now pave way for a more efficient, cost-effective mechanism in contrast to the traditional method of delivering FODE materials through hard copies of papers in large volumes to all centers through the country. -ENDS-





PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENED

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, 3rd August 2023. Today's signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) and PNG Customs Service (PNGCS) demonstrates the commitment both government agencies have to ensure the effective execution of their respective functions to allow for the flow of trade in the ICT Sector.

This MoU follows a review of an existing collaborative arrangement which began in 2012 between NICTA, the government agency responsible for regulating the ICT Industry and PNGCS, the border control agency. The MoU empowers the enforcement of NICTA's Type Approval Compliance function by PNGCS in respect of all ICT equipment being imported into the country. Both agencies agree and recognize that this MoU will address and strengthen the response to the following matters and issues:

- a) the level of assistance to be provided by PNGCS when administering the PNG borders for ICT regulatory purposes;
- b) ensuring entry of type-approved genuine ICT equipment into the PNG marketplace.
- c) ensuring NICTA licensed radio dealers have appropriate authority when they import ICT equipment
- d) regulating ICT goods (equipment) so that imports do not cause interference, or harm to public telecommunications networks and are safe for users, and that imported equipment does not pose a material risk to the health of PNG consumers and citizens;
- e) taking necessary action to prevent important ICT products that do not comply with the requirements set out in the relevant legislation and regulations;
- f) measuring the benefit and consumption of the various ICT services in PNG using imported ICT goods (equipment) especially the impact on the flow of goods on the livelihood of the citizens and its value.
- g) Statistics on ICT goods imported to be used by NICTA for supply and demand projections, the licensees and potential entrants for market assessments, and the various State agencies responsible for planning and monitoring etc.; and
- h) Impact Assessment of ICT Trade etc.

The signing of this MoU also marks an important milestone for NICTA with the automatization its Equipment/Apparatus Type Approval process from the traditional manual listing and vetting process so that checks and approval are done online with less delay and greater efficiency for its domestic and international customers. This is in line with the PNG Single e-Window initiative by National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC).

BITS & PIECES

Engineering and Resource Planning (ERP)

Engineering & Resource Planning Department (ERP) is one out of NICTA's six arms that make up the organisation. The other three (3) departments are; Licensing and Enforcement, Corporate Services and Economics, Consumer & International Affairs. The remainder two (2) are Office of the CEO and the Universal Access & Service (UAS) Secretariat.

ERP is responsible for formulating spectrum regulatory policies, plans, guidelines, standards and specifications for all radio and telecommunications services including broadcasting.

The department comprises three (3) branches: Resources Planning, Frequency Coordination and ICT Standards.

The Department has a staff strength of 16 staff, all male except for Ms. Michelle Ikum who is currently Senior Engineer Numbering.

Manager ICT Standards & Policy Mr. Felix Rupokei and Manager Resource Planning Mr. Steven Anda report to Director Engineering and Resource Planning Mr. Hans Adeg who reports to the CEO.

ERP is one of the core functions of NICTA with experts in spectrum, numbering, broadcasting and radio communications and ICT standards. Of the 16, all are communications engineers most with extensive years of experience in the ICT sector.

TEAM ENGINEERING & RESOURCE PLANNING



STAFF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT



APNIC Training on, "IPv6 Deployment" from 31st July 04th August 2023 at Hilton Hotel, Port Moresby

APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Centre, pronounced A-P-NIC) is an open, independent, not-for-profit membership organization that underpins the infrastructure and growth of the Internet in the Asia Pacific.-Source :APNIC Website



Lecturer/course facilitator Dr. Francis Odhuno. with Christine Francis & Andirauga Nongkas

“ I would like to acknowledge and thank NICTA for supporting my career and professional development through various training programs including this one. I found the training program with NRI EPAC to be very useful as it provided practical knowledge and understanding of key government economic and other public policies.

The program helped me gain a deeper understanding of policy issues and challenges impacting the economic growth and social development of our country and I am keen to apply the knowledge, skills, and techniques gained in my work going forward”.

Christine Francis

Ms.Francis & Mrs Nongkas received Diploma in Economic Policy Analysis

photo captions!



CAPTION: Minister for ICT, Hon. Timothy Masiu meets Gabaspot founder Mr. Guise Vere as UAS Board Member Mr. Kone Kula looks on



Caption : Liaison Officers for the PICT Ministerial Dialogue , NICTA's Cathy Kepa and Valentina Nakia



CAPTION: NICTA Staff with NBC Board members & NICTA CEO at NBC's 50 years anniversary week-long celebration. November 27th -December 1st 2023



CAPTION: APT PRFP-16 - Hilton Hotel, Port Moresby



Caption : Pall Bearers - NICTA Engineering Staff, Jerry , Fabian , Steven and Benny

48TH INDEPENDENCE





CAPTION : L-R:Mr. Panny Yokope , Director Licensing & Enforcement, Ms.Kimberly Kanimba, Corporate Secretary-NICTA Board, Mr.Kila Gulo-Vui, NICTA CEO & Mr. Kone Kula UAS Board Member

NICTA IN PERSPECTIVE LAUNCHED!

A first for the National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA) since its inception, NICTA now has its official newsletter.

"NICTA in Perspective " is a quarterly publication, produced by NICTA's Public Relations covering latest news and events and capturing NICTA's roles and responsibilities, with the aim of educating and informing.

The first ever edition covered quarters one and two of 2023, with highlights of Heads of ICT government agencies inaugural meet in Kokopo, International Girls in ICT Day Forum and preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC23) in Dubai.

The launch coincided with NICTA's pre-independence celebrations on Wednesday 13th September to mark the country's 48th Independence celebrations.



Awareness In Pictures



STAFF CORNER

“The Revolutionized Communications Engineer”



From a little hamlet of Urigembi village of Youngoru-Saussia in East Sepik Province, 63-year-old Paulus Wiambi is specialised in all array of radio frequency spectrum planning. Wiambi joined the Post and Telecommunication back in 1993. Wiambi recalls the transition from analog to digital era.

I started my career as a non-academic staff with the Department of Physics at the University of Papua New Guinea in Applied Electronics in Physics from 1989 to 1992 but because of staff shortage the department professor assigned me to tutoring, because of my affluent knowledge in physics.

I then joined Post and Telecommunication (PTC) in 1993, I started off a young single man back then with spectrum planning section, and spectrum was all white man's job back then. I started off as a technical officer and resonated to where I am now.

Mr Wiambi is specialized in Spectrum Planning that's in all array of Radio Communication, Satellite Communication, and radio channelling arrangements. Many people do not fully comprehend what is really a radio frequency spectrum management. Radio spectrum management is the dynamic process of regulating the use of radio frequency resources to promote equitability and efficiency of the usage and gain a net social benefit. The term radio spectrum typically refers to the full frequency range from 1 Hz to 3000 GHz (3 THz) that may be used for both wired and wireless communication.

In clarity it defines the radiocommunication service allocations, the scientific and technical specifications, and determines which types of services and technologies can operate in a country. As such, it can determine the pace of deployment of such technologies.

Can you describe the changes you have been a testament to in your line of duty?

When I first started working in this field, it was all analog. I have been a witness to and I am a testament of all the changes that have happened from then to now digital. These changes have had a direct impact on the way we do things in our line of duty. The difference between Analog and Digital is how the data is transmitted. Digital signals are transmitted as 1s and 0s, whereas analog signals are transmitted in waves. One is not necessarily better than another, but one may be preferred over the other depending on the situation.

Digital radio is the latest radio technology, which refers to the use of digital technology to transmit or receive across the radio spectrum, while analog radio is the traditional type of radio, using frequency modulation (FM) to encode a voice signal within a carrier wave. The world of radio communication is fast-phasing and dynamic as is always changing and there are more sophisticated ideas being developed, the future will not be the same as today., especially in the areas of quantum electronics.

How can you describe these changes?

I would like to call myself a “Revolutionized Engineer”. In my previous strong background in the area of physics combined with radio communication knowledge, you have to be revolutionized in order to learn at ease, otherwise you will not be able to see these changes.

The years have thought me a great deal about physics applications in radio technology such as electrons, neutrons and protons as in a nutshell the existence of these elements create electromagnetic wave behaviour. The natural behaviour of this wave is conditioned by man to harness the welfare of mankind.

It needs critical thinking to analyse from analog to digital and this is what these years have thought me.

Analogue technology is a prototype it pathed the way for the adventures to digital systems.

What are you proud of, in your line of duty after serving these many years?

I am grateful for I did what I had to do as my bit of contribution to the development in the ICT sector. I have trained one-on-one many young engineers who have worked with me in the section we were attached to. On the job training with skill and knowledge transfer is one area I am proud of. I will leave a satisfied man.

Changes from PTC to Pangtel and now NICTA how would you describe it?

During the PTC days it used to be called Spectrum Management Agency (SMA) it was one of the main divisions of the main PTC organization and SMA was specialized in controlling national frequency radio frequency spectrum just as what NICTA is doing.

A former state Minister, late Martin Thomson in the 90s said you cannot be an operator and regulator at the same time because that's the paradigm of monopoly and he decided to do away with PTC controlling spectrum which was very importantly an inaugural move to have opened doors to other players in wider ICT development.

If PTC had hold onto spectrum all other players in the playing field will not come and operate in this country. Before it was both the operator and the regulator and I was working in the SMA Branch, we looked after the spectrum.

Every country in the world has a spectrum management organization and NICTA is also globally linked to all this organization via ITU so the creation of NICTA created an unequivocal level Playing Field equitable to attract other operators of which we now have in the country. We would not have seen this massive infusion of change in technology advances in this country today if the status quo remained.

What will you take with you after you leave NICTA?

After serving for 33 years, I am planning on retiring soon. NICTA has given me and my family the greatest unconditional gift and that is helping staff secure future for our children's education. I will forever.

REMEMBERING LATE TINOI



Late Tinoi Robert joined then PANGTEL now NICTA in 2007 and devotedly served NICTA for 16 years until his untimely death.

Late Tinoi from Hula in Central Province at the time of his passing on Friday 7th July 2023, was part of NICTA's Engineering and Resource Planning Department.

Tinoi was an important part of NICTA's Human Resource as expressed by the CEO during staff final farewell program on Friday 14th July 2023.

NICTA Board and Management when handing over late Tinoi to his family, acknowledged late Tinoi's immense contribution to the regulation of ICT industry in PNG.

Late Tinoi is survived by his wife and two children.



Late Tinoi brought to NICTA office



NICTA Hauswin-Casket arrives.



Viewing of body



Handing over of wreath by NICTA Board Chairman, Noel Mobia - signifying handover of late Tinoi to his family and community



Ambulance with body & Police Escort leaving NICTA office.

Q3 & 4 of 2023 IN PICTURES



Q3 & 4 of 2023 IN PICTURES





NICTA Joins NBC in celebrating it's 50 years Anniversary

The National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) turned 50 on the 1st of December 2023

Minister for Information and Communication , Hon. Timothy Masiu at the Opening Ceremony to mark NBC's 50th Anniversary weeklong celebration

"The celebrations this week are promises of joy and reflection on this 50 years journey and above all it will be our week to take stock and see how we can further improve our efforts to deliver better and improve broadcasting services to our people,

I will reserve everything I want to say for this Friday which is the actual birthday of NBC but for now I also express my gratitude and appreciation to Prime Minister Hon. James Marape and the cabinet for the ungravelly support in ensuring we celebrate our anniversary this week and the Hon. Prime Minister will be joining us on Friday on the birthday of NBC.

I also.... want to acknowledge the direct involvement and assistance of the Governor of NCD and the NCDC, you have been a true friend of NBC over this many, many years. I also acknowledge the NBC Board and the management for the many hours of meetings and planning for this week I know we have had many challenges but have remain steadfast and ensuring a celebration that is fitting for our 50 years of dedicated servicers to our people.

Thank you Deputy Chairman of the NBC Board for the opening celebration this morning, we will also not be around as NBC celebrate its 100 years so let us celebrate to the fullest as we embark on this celebrative week we remember our organizations and individuals who have contributed to NBC success story, the ABC whose radio services who were with us till the 1st of December 1973 to birth the NBC. This 50th anniversary is not just a milestone for NBC but also for the people of this beautiful country Papua New Guinea.

With this, a moment to reflect upon the power of story telling the impact of our connective narratives and the role media plays in shaping society, throughout the years the NBC has been a reliable source of news, entertainment and cultural representation bringing communities together empowering voices and starting critical discussion, it is a testament to a commitment to serving."



NICTA KIDS X-MAS PARTY

"Every year as tradition we (NICTA) try to appreciate our staff by giving a little something for our children. This has been a tradition we started some years back and we hope through this gesture, our families can appreciate the work that we do as Christmas is all about family and the people, we love, in this case our children"

Jackson Kariko , Director Corporate Services





National Information & Communications
Technology Authority

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