



"SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - CREATING A DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER FOR THE PACIFIC"

28TH - 29TH AUGUST, 2023 | PORT MORESBY & KAVIENG



PACIFIC ICT MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE 2023 "SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - CREATING A DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER FOR THE PACIFIC"





T is with the greatest pleasure that on behalf of the Department of Information and Communication Technology (DICT), the National Information Communication and Technology Authority (NICTA) and the National Broadcasting Corporation of PNG (NBC), I want to sincerely thank all participants in the recently concluded inaugural Pacific Information and The two meetings were highly successful and further strengthens the ICT sector in the Asia Pacific region and further binds our mutual desire to work together and bridging the region through ICT and to make the region relevant in a fast-changing society which is now very much reliant on ICT as the new norm going forward.

Communications Technology Ministerial Dialogue and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT)16thPolicy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (APT PRFP-16) Conference, both held in

Port Moresby from the 30th of August to 1st September respectively.

I acknowledge the support of the government of Papua New Guinea and the participation of the Prime Minister Hon. James Marape MP and the deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso MP and the Governor of NCD Hon. Powes Parkop MP and his amazing Port Moresby team.

I want to also thank all sponsors and support services given for the hosting of these two events and all state agencies in particular those that were in the event organizing committee and non-Government organizations and in particular the St John Ambulance service.

I thank also the New Ireland Province Governor Hon. Grand Chief Sir Julias Chan and your office and your provincial government and its officers and also the member for Kavieng and Treasurer Hon. Ian Ling Stuckey MP, member for Namatanai and Minister for Transport Hon. Walter Shnaubelt MP for the support given to my ministry in the hosting of the Pacific ICT Ministers dialogue delegation that travelled to Kavieng for a one-day visit.

The outcomes of the two conferences are published in this supplement and entails what we the Asia Pacific region intends to do and achieve

We thank the Government of Australia and the Government of New Zealand for their keen support and the Pacific Forum, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

The Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT) for their active participation at the technical level.

Finally, I pay homage to the people of Boera village for their time and effort despite the late notice to construct a mini Lagatoi and preparation of the young dancers that brought the Lagatoi Declaration for its signing and that now paves the way for a stronger effort in ICT development in the region.

We look forward to New Caledonia hosting the next Pacific ICT Ministerial dialogue in 2025 and the next APT PRFP in Tonga next year (2024).

Thank you very much! Taniku bada herea! and tenk yu tru!

Hon. TIMOTHY MASIU, MP

Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and member for South Bougainville.









I remember the world I was born into, in 1970, in those days, we do not have computer recordings or even recordings. But in any case, in the 70s the world was far, far different. I remember when I was in the university in the 1990s, we have those big, massive computers, those were the days, and we have to go and access library for our own studies and research.

Today, everything is at your fingertip, it is moving so fast.

The world of commerce and trade, the world of education, the world of health, the world of transactions that take place, everything is now

Opening Speech - PM Hon. James Marape

influenced by the ICT. In fact, well-done ICT, the world of commerce and trade will not have grown much faster. In the last 10 years, it has grown, grew up on GDP as a result of ICT that drives the economy in the world today.

And I want to appreciate the pacific island leaders for coming together.

This theme, smart pacific, one voice, creating a digital future, together for the pacific, resonates very well with the trajectory, the body of leaders in pacific envisions for our collective good.

Without togetherness, we will be just one tiny dot in this big blue space, just on your own, very insignificant in this big space. But together, we have 15 voices in, and our voice gets bigger in unity. And that is why this meeting today is as equally as important as conversation on commerce and economy and geopolitics.

Because this one, in my view amongst the most significant conversation taking place, with all pacific island leaders, because together you could rally the platform of the future commerce, trade, health, education and everything else that is associated with the ambience of what we want to build for our blue continent or blue pacific way forward.

I want to encourage all of you not to think small but to think big. I want to encourage all of you to engage in open conversation for your engagement today shake the world. As we speak tonight, innovations are taking place, they are moving faster than we in the pacific. We pedal by canoes; we sit under the palm of our coconuts and allow the breach to come through.

One conversation that could be reached today takes a month or a year to reach. Get going, move fast because the ICT space is moving much faster, it is moving at lightning pace. You and I must move at the lightning pace to ensure we remain relevant and beneficial, and with the emerging trends in the ICT space.

I want to say thank you very much each and every one of you for coming from your own country to visit us in amazing Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

This is the inaugural meeting and I want this to be a powerhouse in PIF because it is really e-commerce, e-trade, e-health, e-education

that will govern and shape the future. you will be the platform in which the future is anchored upon. You are not peripheral sideshow, you are not a junior ministry or portfolio, you are the core in my view because you are the boot and the engine room of what takes place today and going forward into the future.

In the virtual world, everything is happening in real time, and you are sitting in a forum that will engage in harnessing the benefits of the ICT, and ensuring that we isolate the threats that come with it.

I encourage all of you to have conversations in a serious manner, find solutions that is common for our blue pacific continent and secure the safety of not just our time here, but more importantly our children who will be living in a world shaped and influenced or if not destroyed by ICT.

Thank you very much. I wish you all a successful conference.

Hon. James Marape, MP

Prime Minister and Member for Tari Pori



"SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - CREATING A DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER FOR THE PACIFIC"





ADIES and gentlemen, esteemed colleagues, fellow Pacific ICT Ministers. A very warm welcome to each one of you to the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue, an event of great significance for our region's

As we convene here today, I am deeply honored to stand before you and reflect upon the path that has led us to this momentous occasion. But first, deep in my heart, I want to thank each one of you for accepting the invitation by the Government of Papua New Guinea and traveling across the Pacific Ocean into Port Moresby.

We all have one thing in common, and that is,

Opening Speech - Hon. Timothy Masiu, MP

we realize the need for us; the Pacific ICT Ministers, to come together, to forge a bond of unity and collaboration. My dear Colleagues and Pacific Islanders, under the theme "Smart Pacific, One Voice – Creating a Digital Future together for the Pacific," it is indeed a privilege to have you all here in Papua New Guinea as we embark on a transformative journey of unity, collaboration, and digitally empowered Pacific.

Let me take you back to November 2022, during the recent ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Bucharest, Romania. I attended the Conference where I witnessed other regions (the Africans, the Caribbeans) and even the smaller sub-regions stood together to push their common proposals.

It saddened me that our voice, the voice of the Pacific, the isolated and vulnerable Island nations in the huge Pacific Ocean, remained fragmented and silent. Those of us that attended the PP22 will recall that we had a side meeting at Bucharest, and we committed to finding a way to collaborate. This Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue is the seed that we sowed there and then. Let this not die but flourish for the good of our people in our region.

My dear Colleagues, we recall and acknowledge the previous attempts by the ICT Ministers under the Pacific Island Forum, noble efforts aimed at fostering collaboration and cooperation. However, it has become increasingly evident that the existing mechanisms fell short of effectively driving the collective progress we envision for our region.

Thus, we find ourselves at the crossroads of transformation – a juncture where the Pacific ICT Dialogue emerges as the beacon of renewed collaboration, infused with fresh vigor and purpose.

This dialogue, my esteemed colleagues, is not merely a congregation of officials, but a celebration of collective willpower, dedication, and shared destiny. Our nations, diverse and unique, are bound by common threads of challenges, opportunities, and aspirations.

Through the medium of digital technologies, we possess the means to bridge divides, create opportunities, and amplify our collective voice on the global stage. In embracing the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue, we are embarking on a journey of innovation, empowerment, and unity. Through our collective endeavors, we aim to

address the common challenges that we have before us, leveraging the transformative power of digital technologies.

As we gather here, we resurrect our commitment to speak with one voice – a voice that resonates not only within our region but echoes across international and regional forums, advocating for our shared interests and concerns. So, let us embark on this voyage together, my dear Colleagues, with renewed purpose and a steadfast commitment to the ideals that underpin the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue.

Let us harness the potential of collaboration, innovation, and technology to carve a brighter, digitally connected future for our Pacific region and our people.

Thank you, and I look forward to engaging in productive deliberations as we chart the course ahead.

God Bless us all.

Hon. TIMOTHY MASIU, MP

Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT), and member for South Bougainville.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening, and welcome to this special dinner in honor of our Pacific Island Leaders. As the Governor of the Nation's Capital, I am truly honored to have all of you here tonight in Amazing Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

First and foremost, I would like to acknowledge our Prime Minister, James Marape, and commend our Government, especially the Minister for Information, Communications, and Technology, Hon. Timothy Masiu. Their leadership in this critical department is instrumental. I would also like to express our gratitude to the National Information Communication and Technology Authority and the National Broadcasting Corpo-

Speech by Hon. Powes Parkop

ration of PNG for their significant roles in shaping our ICT landscape.

Port Moresby, our capital city and the gateway to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific, welcomes you all, whether you are visiting for the first time or returning. I would like to offer a brief glimpse of what makes Port Moresby and PNG unique, with our rich tribal diversity, ethnic communities, vibrant culture, and warm-hearted people.

Tonight, as we gather in the heart of the Pacific, I am guided by a vision—a vision of a safer haven for our women and children, a city where crime and violence are vanquished, where urban development flourishes, and where even our settlements are uplifted. Our journey involves substantial investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, propelling us towards becoming a clean, modern, and smart city.

My aspiration is to create a city that not only hosts conferences, forums, and dialogues like this but also showcases world-class sporting events and fosters international business ventures, positioning Port Moresby as a global tourism hub.

Our nation's strength lies in its diversity, and

despite the unique challenges presented by our diverse terrain and vast oceans, we take pride in offering solutions to global issues. As part of the Blue Continent, with our extensive rainforests, we contribute to global sustainability. Despite the challenges, we are confident in our capacity to make a difference on the regional and global stage.

The Ministry of ICT, under the able leadership of Minister Masiu and his department, plays a pivotal role in shaping our communication technology landscape. ICT is the backbone of connectivity, enabling people-to-people, business-to-business, and government-to-government interactions.

It also enhances government service delivery efficiency, making it a key driver of our nation's progress. As the Municipal Authority of the nation's capital, we are committed to collaborating closely with Minister Masiu and his team.

I enthusiastically endorse the Lakatoi Declaration, a significant step toward promoting ICT and cooperation within the Blue Continent. This dialogue reaffirms our commitment to our people and the nations of our region. Port Moresby's evolution into a Smart City, through initiatives like "Amazing Port Moresby," in collaboration with the PNG ICT Department, fosters innova-

tion and brings essential services closer to our people through technology. Over the coming days, I am confident that we will strengthen our commitment to cooperation, mutual understanding, and the prosperity of our nations, building bridges, friendships, and partnerships to drive our region forward through ICT.

While you are here, I encourage you to immerse yourselves in the natural beauty, rich culture, and wonders of our city and country. Port Moresby is where a million journeys begin, and we invite you to experience the uniqueness of our city. I hope your visit leaves you with cherished memories of our vibrant culture and warm hospitality.

Lastly, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organizers, staff, and service providers who have worked tirelessly to make this gathering a resounding success. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and I sincerely thank you for your invaluable contributions.

Once again, welcome to Amazing Port Moresby, and I wish you all a pleasant evening ahead.

Thank you.

Hon Powes Parkop Governor NCD





"SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - CREATING A DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER FOR THE PACIFIC"





AM truly honored to stand before you today, representing the government of Papua New Guinea in this monumental gathering of the Pacific ICT Ministers Dialogue.

I want to echo and reinforce the sentiments expressed by the Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape, during the welcome dinner, reaffirming our resolute dedication to the collective vision of "Smart Pacific – One Voice: Creating a digital future together for the Pacific."

The words and vision articulated by our primes minister resonates deeply with the values and aspirations ingrained within our nation's fabric. Papua New Guinea remains unswerving its commitment to nurture an inclusive digital economy that elevates every citizen, transcending geographical confines and bridging the disparities in digital access.

The conviction shared by our prime minister not only underscore our determination but also encapsulate the very essence of unity that forms the bedrock of our regional endeavors.



Welcome Honorable Dignitaries and your delegation members of the Pacific, representing of you countries and territories here in Port Moresby for the Pacific ICT Ministers Dialogue.

Speech by DPM Hon. John Rosso

Taking inspiration from recent milestone like the ITU PP22 Conference in Romania and the Pacific Island Telecommunication Association's Annual General Meeting and Business Forum Expo, we discern the utmost importance of collaboration within the realm of ICT.

The ongoing digital revolution has the potential to stimulate economic growth, expand the reach of public services, and empower communities in ways that seemed unimaginable merely a few decades ago.

With the theme of "Smart Pacific - One voice: Creating a digital future together for the Pacific," we acknowledge that connectivity stretches beyond physical accessibility. It embodies the principle of quality, affordability and inclusivity, ensuring that every Pacific Islander reaps the benefits of the digital strides we are making.

Our Prime Minister's call to align with the Pacific Island Forums overarching vision of leaving no one behind echoes the very core of our policies and strategies. It rests upon our collective shoulders to guarantee that the digital transformation we embark upon is genuinely all-encompassing, enriching the lives of each and every citizen and community.

I commend the honorable Timothy Masiu, MP, Minister for ICT for leading this dialogue, fully supported by the Marape-Rosso Government. This dialogue serves s a beacon of our region's aspirations, where we advanced in harmony, leveraging technology to shape a brighter, more equitable future

As I reiterate the sentiments of our Prime Minister, I assure you of Papua New Guinea's unwav-



ering commitment to this cause. We are committed to supporting a secretariate to facilitate the works of the Pacific ICT Ministers for the next few years until the Ministers meet again to deliberate.

I wish you all a success in your deliberation, and look forward to be briefed by my Minister for ICT on the outcome of your dialogue.

Thankyou.

Hon. John Rosso, MP

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Lands



Speech by Hon. Lohia Boe Samuel

My good Governor for the City, Hon. Powes Parkop will deliver the keynote welcome address. I represent my people of Moresby North-West electorate, which is one of the 3 electorate, in the National Capital District, where this Dialogue is held.

Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Senior Officials and Diplomats from participating Pacific Island countries and territories, and I also acknowledge the Deputy Prime Minister of the Government of Fiji, who is also the Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, SMEs and Communications; Hon. Manoa Seru Nakausabaria Kamikamira

I also acknowledge our international observers and development partners, and I make special mention of the Deputy Secretary-General of the International Telecommunicatiopn Union, Mr Thomas Lamanauskas. Thank you all for coming to Papua New Guinea.

The Motu Koitabuans are notably seafarers, traders and fishermen. For centuries, our people have been in the Hiri trade trading with pacific neighbors and within Papua New Guinea

I would like to thank my good Minister for ICT, Honorable Timothy Masiu and the Government of Marape-Rosso for bringing the Ministers in the ICT sector across the Pacific region to Port Moresby. It is a timely call for us to work together to harness the power digital technologies to build a Smart and Fair Pacific for today and for our future generations to come. Embracing technology also comes with challenges, particularly of cybercrime and cybersecurity and I believe no one nation can address these issues alone, it requires a collective and collaborative effort of all of us.

Your gathering here as ICT Ministers gives us an assurance that together we can find ways to

secure our digital space.

On behalf of my people of Moresby North-West, I welcome you all

Thank you.

Hon Lohia Boe Samuel Member for Moresby North-West

"Coming together is the **beginning.** Keeping together is **progress.** Working together is **success.**"

- Henry Ford

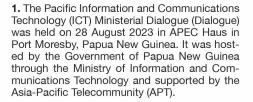




"SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - CREATING A DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER FOR THE PACIFIC"



COMMUNIQUE ON THE PACIFIC ICT MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF THE PACIFIC



- 2. 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) specialised agency, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), APT, Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat, and other regional organisations and development partners, under the theme of "Smart Pacific, One Voice Creating a Digital Future Together for the Pacific".
- 3. The Dialogue was attended by the Hon. Manoa Seru Nakausabaria Kamikamica MP, Fiji Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Communications.
- 4. The Dialogue was chaired by the Hon. Timothy Masiu MP, Papua New Guinea Minister for Information and Communications Technology, and assisted by vice-chairs; Hon. Vaimu'a Muliava MP, New Caledonia Minister for Digital Transformation, Technological Innovation, Relations with French territories in the Pacific, the Public Service, and the Modernisation of Public Action Government; and Hon. Toelupe Poumulinuku Onesemo MP, Samoa Minister for Com-

munication and Information Technology.

5. 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

- **6.** The Ministers sought to chart a unified digital future by putting digital transformation at the centre of their development agenda to drive social and economic development and prosperity, and adopted the Ministerial Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific to be known as the Lagatoi Declaration.
- 7. The Ministers acknowledged the diverse stages of ICT and digital transformation development across the Pacific, and the need to harmonise policies to support and advance digitalisation in the region.
- 8. The Ministers recognised the existing connectivity gaps, the vulnerability of the Pacific to cyber threats, climate and environmental threats, and the need to fortify critical information infrastructure;
- **9.** The Ministers emphasised the need to enhance Pacific peoples' ICT capacity and capabilities.
- 10. The Ministers commended the initiatives led

by individual Pacific Island Countries and Territories, including through regional cooperation and support of development partners, to bridge the digital divide in the Pacific.

- **11.** The Ministers recalled the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and PIF Leaders' commitment to a well-connected region that ensures inclusive, accessible, secure and affordable ICT infrastructure and services.
- **12.** The Ministers emphasised the critical role and opportunities presented by the use of ICT and digital transformation to Pacific Island Countries and Territories as primary enablers of socio- economic development, inclusive governance, and sustainable livelihood in a fast-changing world.
- **13.** The Ministers called for increased regional solidarity, commitment to address regional challenges and threats, and to leverage contributions through a multi-stakeholder approach to digital transformation.

Ministers agree on priority areas for a digital future together

- **14.** 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.
- **15.** The Ministers affirmed the opportunities presented by digital transformation and the value of collaboration between Pacific Island

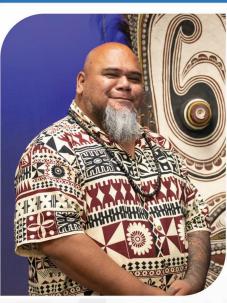
Countries and Territories, and our development partners in accelerating digital transformation.

16. The Ministers called on the international community, particularly the ITU and other United Nations agencies, as well as regional organisations to strengthen their understanding, engagement and presence in the Pacific region, and called for strengthening ITU's regional presence in the Pacific.

Way forward

- 17. 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.
- **18.** The Ministers encouraged strengthening communication and coordination among existing regional mechanisms, including the Council of Regional Organisations of the Pacific (CROP) and ICT Working Groups.
- **19.** 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.
- **20.** The Ministers thanked the Government of Papua New Guinea for hosting the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue 2023.

New Caledonia to Host the Next Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue in 2025



IN a groundbreaking announcement, the New Caledonian Minister for Digital Transformation, Technological Innovation, and Relations with French Territories in the Pacific, Hon. Vaimu'a Muliava, has revealed that New Caledonia will host the second Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue in 2025.

The decision was made during the conclusion of the Inaugural Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue 2023, where Minister Muliava expressed his passion for digital transformation and his commitment to fostering unity in the Pacific region.

Minister Muliava's announcement did not come as a surprise, given his active involvement in regional discussions on digital transformation.

Having attended the Pacific ICT Heads of Agency Dialogue at Kokopo earlier this year, Minister Muliava showcased his dedication to the advancement of information and communication technologies in the Pacific. His devotion to the

cause was evident when he volunteered to host the next Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue.

The Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue is a significant initiative aimed at promoting collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and the development of ICT policies across the Pacific region.

Chaired by the PN G Minister of ICT, the Inaugural Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue 2023 provided a platform for ICT ministers from various Pacific nations to discuss pressing digital challenges and opportunities. Minister Masiu, who chaired the event, emphasized the importance of determining the host country for the upcoming dialogue.

"If any country wishes to host our next Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue, now is the time to step forward," Minister Masiu announced during the closing remarks. Without hesitation, Hon. Vaimu'a Muliava raised his hand, symbolizing New Caledonia's willingness to take on the responsibility. "I will host the next Pacific ICT Ministers' Dia-

logue. I will wait for the Lagatoi to sail to New Caledonia in 2025," Minister Muliava proudly declared, showcasing his anticipation for the event. This decision reflects New Caledonia's commitment to embracing technological innovation and creating a stronger, more interconnected Pacific region through enhanced digital cooperation.

The forthcoming Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue in New Caledonia is expected to facilitate indepth discussions on the implementation of the lagatoi declaration, digital strategies, that can further drive the Pacific nations forward in the digital era.

With Minister Muliava's strong leadership and passion, along with the support of Papua New Guinea as well as the other Pacific Island Countries, the dialogue is poised to leave a lasting impact on the region's technological landscape, harnessing its power for the collective benefit of Pacific nations





"SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - CREATING A DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER FOR THE PACIFIC"



The Story Behind...

It was a beautiful sunny Friday afternoon as Boera village, sited just outside the capital city of PNG, Port Moresby was stirred to life by the rumbling sound of vehicles snaking their into the quietude of this wonderful village, away from the bustling highway leading to the nation's colossal Multi-Billion Kina Natural Gas storage and condensation site—the Napanapa LNG plant site.

As these vehicles approached, villagers slowly emerged from their locally crafted homes, curiosity dancing in their eyes.

What could these unexpected visitors want after years of neglect had become the norm? They silently gathered at the village meeting area, while government vehicles converged on the village square, setting the stage for a rare ceremony in a place so near the nation's capital.

Leading the convoy was a government minister unfamiliar with these parts but was determined in his mission to lock in an arrangement that has now gained regional and international notice.

This is the story of the PNG ICT Minister, Hon. Timothy Masiu who in a land far away from the Pacific started talks with like-minded Pacific leaders for an ICT voice on the global stage.

The concept sparked when he attended the meeting in Budapest Romania in the year 2022, thereafter he called together Ministers from all Pacific Island Countries, and they all agreed the Pacific must have a voice.

Fast forward, a year later the Lagatoi Declaration was signed off at APEC House Port Moresby by 18 countries of the Pacific including Australia and New Zealand on August 2023.

As planning came to a close a week before the conference, Minister Masiu called a meeting of

the event organizing committee and asked the question "What shall we call the declaration"?

He had already had some ideas knowing that the dialogue would take place at APEC House which is designed like a Lagatoi, a grand ocean-going traditional canoe once pivotal for trade, now reserved for ceremonial use.

Following discussions and input from the Pacific Island leaders, they unanimously agreed to christen it the Lagatoi Declaration.

Minister Masiu's reasoning was profound. It paid homage to the traditional landowners of Port Moresby, with the building itself mirroring the Lagatoi's shape.

The Lagatoi, in its essence, symbolized the sharing of information, communication technology, a vessel for connectivity, guided by stars, wind, and waves—just as technology guides us.

Summoned into action was Mr. Oala Moi, the Department of ICT's legal counsel, whose roots traced back to Boera.

He hailed from a lineage deeply entwined with Lagatoi building and trade. His mission: to collaborate with his people and construct a Lagatoi of fitting stature. The vision? To sail the Declaration onto Ela Beach, next to APEC House, carried by traditional dancers for the grand signing.

The process was steeped in customary rituals, signifying peace, harmony, and recognition of the rare request for a Lagatoi from someone outside the Motuan society.

Anticipation ran high as the convoy entered Boera village, an unfamiliar sight, a visitor from a different society far from that which is typical to them, asking for a Lagatoi.

After initial pleasantries, ICT legal counsel Oala Moi commenced the ceremony by introducing Minister Masiu.

Minister Masiu presented food and pigs and

D ----

gainville shell money, an important Bougainville cultural gesture as payment for the construction of the Lagatoi and the respect to the Boera clan that agreed to build the Lagatoi for the Minister and his intentions.

Minister Masiu pledged that an Internet library for the village, a token of appreciation, and a vision for progress.

As the convoy drove out of Boera village, it dawned on all who accompanied the Minister that something historic had transpired.

This was the first time such a ceremony was held but more so his pledge to build an Internet library for the village through their school will propel this sleepy backstage village still living as their ancestors years ago and who braved the seas for trade that time into the modern world of communication.

The Lagatoi on thewas ready to sail the Lagatoi in but strong winds prevented its short sailing route to the beach.

However, the symbolic gesture was made and voung dancers with their mentors in beautiful

ra-

ditional singing and dance brought in the Lagatoj Declaration to the awe of visiting dignitaries from the region and into the conference room to be signed by Pacific ICT leaders or their representatives paving the way for the Lagatoi agreement to sail out into the vast Pacific Ocean and link the hundreds of islands that continue to remain isolated and vulnerable

The Lagatoi Declaration is the pledge of the government and the people of the Pacific that it must no longer be isolated, and the world must listen to the region which will now have one Pacific voice ... the story of a few gentlemen far away in a cold country from their warm palm swaying islands in the Pacific finally concluding a significant milestone in the Pacific ICT development and led by a simply but determined Pacific leader from Bougainville Island who had seen tragic experiences as a broadcaster during the Bougainville crisis and vowed that this experiences must not be repeated in the region again and that Information and its effective communication through modern technology is the way forward for knowledge and positive information-based society.



News Highlights from POM & Kavieng

Deputy Prime Minister Hon John Rosso at the opening remarks of the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue at Apec Haus, Port Moresby.

PNG Government to support Pacific ICT Dialogue for Next 2 years

The Papua New Guinea Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Hon James Marape is committed to supporting secretariat to facilitate the works of the Pacific ICT Ministers for the next two years until the Ministers meet again to deliberate.

PNG's Deputy Prime Minister Hon John Rosso gave this assurance when representing the PNG Government during the opening remarks of the Pacific ICT Minister's Dialogue recently at Apec Haus, Port Moresby.

DPM Rosso said with the theme "Smart Pacific – one voice: creating a digital future together for the pa-

cific," we acknowledge connectivity stretches beyond physical accessibility

"The ongoing digital revolution has the potential to stimulate economic growth, expand the reach of public services, and empower communities." DPM Rosso said.

He said it upholds the values of excellence, accessibility, and inclusiveness, guaranteeing that every resident of the Pacific Islands benefits from the advancements in technology.

DPM Rosso shared sentiments expressed by Prime Minister James Marape to support ICT realm in the

Pacific.

He said the digital transformation we embark upon is genuinely all encompassing, enriching the lives of each and every citizen and community.

He also praises Hon. Timothy Masiu, Minister of Information and Communications Technology, for facilitating this discussion with the Marape-Rosso Administration's full backing.

He further said this conversation serves as a symbol of the region's goals, where the nations of the Pacific unite in harmony and use technology to create a better, more just future.



News Highlights from POM & Kavieng

The Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue 2023 Marks a Milestone: The Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific

MOMENTOUS occasion unfolded on August 28, 2023, in Port Moresby, as the inaugural Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue came to a close with the signing of the Lagatoi Agreement'.

This landmark gathering brought together ICT Ministers and Heads of Delegation from across the Pacific Island countries to foster collaboration, discuss challenges, and chart a course for the digital future of the region. The highlight of the event was the unanimous signing of the Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific.

The Lagatoi Declaration, a symbol of unity and commitment, saw participation from 12 Pacific Island countries that included Australia, Fiji, Kiribati, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Additionally, three Pacific ICT Ministers representing Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, and Tuvalu expressed their intention and agreement to

the declaration via zoom.

The accord reaffirms the region's collective aspiration for a well-connected, prosperous, and secure digital landscape.

The ministers, recognizing the significance of a united front in achieving their digital goals, deliberated on a range of pivotal ICT matters.

The dialogue encompassed the state of current ICT endeavors, hurdles that lay ahead, success stories that serve as inspiration, lessons gleaned from past experiences, as well as pathways to propel the Pacific's utilization of ICT and digital transformation.

A key theme woven into these discussions was the strengthening of regional cooperation and representation to address the evolving needs of ICT and digital development. The Lagatoi Declaration zeroes in on six priority areas that will guide the Pacific's digital journey: Digital Transformation, Digital Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Digital Infrastructure, Digital Se-



PNG ICT Minister Hon. Timothy Masiu, receiving the Lagatoi Declaration along with his collegue Pacific Ministers during the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue

curity and Trust, Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development, and Regional Cooperation and Representation. The signing of the Lagatoi Declaration marks a turning point in the Pacific's digital trajectory, with nations united in their pursuit of a vibrant and secure digital future. As the region moves forward, these commitments are set to shape policies, initiatives, and

collaborative efforts that will not only harness the power of ICT but also fortify the Pacific's position in the global digital landscape.

The Inaugural Pacific ICT Ministers' Dialogue has set the stage for transformation, innovation, and collaboration, driving the Pacific Islands toward a prosperous digital era.

Pacific ICT Ministerial Delegation Visits New Ireland after the Signing of Declaration

Following the high-level discussions and the successful signing and completion of the 'Lagatoi' Decleration, at APEC Haus, the Pacific ICT Delegation led by host Minister Hon. Timothy Masiu, visited the New Ireland province for an integration of culture and commonality of traditions and landscape.

The purpose of the visit was to expose the Pacific Delegations to the rich cultural tapestry of the region, gain insights into rural ICT challenges, appreciate the stunning landscapes, and establish cultural connections that mirror those of their own societies.

Accompanied by representatives from the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), Huawei, Vodafone, Amazing Port Moresby, Digicel, and members of the New Ireland Provincial Government, the Pacific ICT Delegation embarked on

an unforgettable experience.

During their one-day tour in the Province, the delegation had the opportunity to witness the breathtaking landscapes of New Ireland, savor the finest local cuisine, and engage with the local communities. However, the standout moments of the trip were the firsthand experiences of New Ireland's ancient shark-calling tradition and the awe-inspiring giant Eels of Laraibina.

These unique cultural practices left an indelible mark on the delegates, fostering a deeper understanding of the region's rich heritage.

Despite the intensity of the one-day journey to New Ireland, the Pacific Delegation maintained beaming smiles throughout their short tour. The warmth of the local hospitality and the shared cultural elements forged a strong bond between the delegates and their host country.



Pacific ICT Delegation welcomed at Lasigi Village of Kavieng, New Ireland Province.





Pictures in POM & Kavieng



Naming of Lagatoi Declaration and Building of Traditional Lagatoi - Boera Village







ICT Minister and Member for South Bougainville Hon. Timothy Masiu led a party of Government executives from the ICT Sector to Boera village for an appreciation ceremony for the building of a traditional Lagatoi to be displayed during the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue. Accompanying the ICT Minister was Secretary of DICT Mr Steven Matainaho, NBC Managing Director Mr Kora Nou, and NBC Board Director Mr Chris Mora.

PICT Dialogue DAY 1 - Welcome Dinner









Welcome Dinner hosted by the Governor for NCD Hon. Powes Parkop. In attendance were Prime Minister Hon. James Marape, Hon. Timothy Masiu, Member for Port Moresby North WestHon. Lohia Boe Samuel, Pacific ICT Ministers, heads of delegation and their delegates, with official in the PNG ICT space.

PICT Dialogue DAY 2 - Main Dialogue and Signing of Lagatoi Declaration











The Second Day of the Pacific ICT Dialogue was initiated by Deputy Prime Minister Hon. John Rosso, and the discussions and the signing of the 'Lagatoi Declaration' eventuate at the symbolicAPEC Haus, Port Moresby. In attendance was the entire Pacific ICT Delegation, Government officials, members of the Diplomatice core, Corporate Executives in the ICT space as well as otherkey stakeholders and development partners.

PICT Dialogue DAY 3 - Connectivity Exercise to New Ireland Province

















After the high-level discussion and the signing of the Lagatoi Agreement, the Pacific ICT delegation was led by PNG ICT Minister Hon. Timothy Masiu to the picturesque New Ireland Provincefor a connectivity exercise, and for the dignitaries to see the similarities in the challenges faced in order for them to exercise the agreement for the benefit of the region. The Delegation werewelcomed with traditional performance and witnessed New Ireland's ancient 'Shark Calling' tradition.



"SMART PACIFIC, ONE VOICE - CREATING A DIGITAL FUTURE TOGETHER FOR THE PACIFIC"











Appreciation of Supporters

The Ministry and Department of Information and Communications Technology, The National Information and Communications Technology Authority (NICTA), and the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), under the dynamic leadership of Hon. Timothy Masiu, Minister for ICT, wish to extend their heartfelt appreciation and acknowledgment to the outstanding organizations that generously supported and contributed to the success of the Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue.

We recognize and applaud the remarkable efforts of the following organizations:

- Department of Foreign Affairs
- Royal PNG Constabulary
- National Airports Corporation
- National Capital District Commission
- Amazing Port Moresby
- New Ireland Provincial Government
- National Gaming Control Board
- National Maritime Safety Authority
- Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)
- Pacific Island Forum (PIF)

- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- PNG DataCo
- Huawei
- Digitech
- Vodafone
- Digicel
- Telikom PNG
- Whiteways Systems
- APCS

Your invaluable contributions, and unwavering support were instrumental in ensuring the resounding success of the Inaugural Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue 2023. It is through your collaborative efforts that we were able to promote and advance the ICT sector in our region.

As we move forward, we eagerly anticipate more opportunities for collaboration and partnership in the field of Information and Communications Technology. Together, we can continue to drive innovation, foster growth, and harness the full potential of ICT for the benefit of our communities and nations.

Once again, we extend our deepest gratitude to all the participating organizations for their dedication and commitment to this endeavor. Your contributions have not only made this dialogue a success but have also set a shining example for future endeavors in the realm of ICT.

Thank you for your unwavering support, and we look forward to a future filled with collaboration and progress in the ICT sector.

































