National Information & Communications Technology Authority (NICTA)

Summary Record: Internet Exchange Point (IXP) in PNG

Date: 5 March 2015
Time: 1.55pm - 2.40pm
Venue: NICTA Boardroom

Present:

Please refer to Attachment "A"

Proceedings	Progress/Actions
Welcome Remarks: Meeting chaired by Executive Director for Economic, Consumer & International Affairs, Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui ("the Chair"). The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming those present in his opening address.	
Agenda Item 1. **Potential establishment of an IXP facility in PNG following from meetings held in June 2014. The following remarks were made by the Chair:** • A brief review of last year's meetings in June 2014 (APID Policy Dialogue/IXP Workshop) where NICTA with the kind support of ISOC facilitated discussion of this concept among industry stakeholders. • emphasis that the Government of PNG desires to make telephony and internet services more affordable for all consumers of PNG. • as the regulator, NICTA's responsibility, among others, is to implement government policy and various programs tied in under NICTA's mandated responsibilities. • NICTA is of the view that there is no existing "neutral and independent" IXP currently in PNG and is currently looking at exploring the possibility of establishing an IXP facility in country. • NICTA notes that existing IXP's in certain	

developed and developing countries have had a significant impact on their respective economic development
- NICTA's key role is to facilitate dialogue/discussion that is non- imposing among key industry stakeholders and to also coordinate with a partner in the form of ISOC who are willing to collaborate in this effort and who have also pledged kind assistance in the form of hardware provision, setup/installation and training of local resources required to operate and maintain the IXP facility.
- NICTA will, over the next 2 weeks from the date of this meeting, consult with industry on a basic policy framework/Charter for the proposed IXP

Discussion and feedback:

- Datec stated that it has a peering arrangement without any charge, with Digicel. Both ISP's also obtain bandwidth from Tiare. Datec and Digicel disclosed that the bandwidth saved between them is 2Mbps. The traffic on the link between Digicel and Datec is local and consists of email and web traffic/web pages. The same link is regulated by the gateway policy in place between Datec and Digicel. Datec also stated that it is open to accepting other local ISP's wishing to peer at no cost.

- Global asked if the existing peering arrangement between Digicel and Datec covers international gateway traffic or international peering. Datec replied that this isn't the case.

- Noel Mobiha remarked that one of the main contributing factors to an increase in hosting of (local) websites internationally comes from the lack of domestic ISP's peering locally. He stated a clear advantage in terms (of local peering) of response time for users for access to websites that are hosted locally and which can also be used as a platform to spur growth of local SME's. The Chair also raised this issue as a concern to be addressed

- Noel Mobiha stated that Vanuatu has experienced an enormous growth in local internet traffic volume since the establishment of the Vanuatu IXP (VIXP).

• Datec stated that Telikom plays a crucial role in local peering as all ISP's have an existing connection/link to their core network facilities.	
• Dataco made the following comments:	
• affirmed Dataco's position in support of establishing a local IXP in PNG by re emphasising the obvious advantages of such a set up in PNG: reduced costs (local peering vs IP transit) and a reduction in tromboning of internet traffic:	
• remarked that it would be useful for the group to have a full retrospect of the best practise principles introduced in the previous IXP events held last year in order to promote independence and neutrality of the proposed local IXP in PNG;	
• highlighted that Google would be willing to geo host its cache in PNG if such a facility exists. It is currently hosted in Sydney for PNG's internet connectivity and	
• Incentives should be given to service providers (such as the local commercial banks who provide retail internet based services) to further drive PNG's local internet content volume.	

• Dataco also stated that it is a willing donor to assist in the setup of the local IXP infrastructure.	The following have been pledged by Dataco:
	
	    • A venue to house the IXP facility located at the former Lohberger building in Konedobu (rent-free) and
	    • Switch racks

• Datec also offered to assist in part in the set up of the said facility.	The following has been pledged by Datec: • 1x 24 port Gbit switch
• The Chair concluded that there is a general	

consensus among the meeting participants for the need to establish an independent and neutral local IXP in PNG. He stressed that the independence of the IXP meant that it will be at arms length from the ISP's as well as the government. He further reiterated NICTA's position as a facilitator in engaging coordination amongst stakeholders to ensure the success of this project. Also mentioned is the need for cooperation amongst stakeholders as a show of commitment to ISOC within the next 3 weeks (from the date of this meeting) in order to secure its much needed support.

- Global remarked that it is ideal for international carriers to separate costs locally for domestic internet traffic.

- Noel Mobiha proposed the following in order to encourage participation for all domestic ISP's in the local IXP facility, due to certain points raised such as the regulatory issues concerning un-bundling and the costs associated with running such a facility:
    - NICTA meet all costs associated with running the said facility for three (3) to six (6) months from set up or
    - NICTA subsidise the associated costs.

The Chair responded that NICTA will consider assisting with the initial start-up costs for an initial period that is to be determined.

- The Chair expressed NICTA's concern that some of the licensees were not providing services for which they were granted licenses and NICTA will continue to monitor the situation

IXP Governance model

- The Chair outlined that governance relating to administration and management of the facility could be addressed in a charter that need to be developed

- The Chair also stated that a proposed governance structure/charter will be provided by NICTA for consultative purposes and eventual ownership by stakeholders

- Datec proposed that the governing body of the IXP consist of a board made up voluntary stakeholder representatives to be responsible for maintenance of the hardware located at the IXP facility

Proposed IXP locations

The following were proposed as a potential venue for the local IXP facility:

- Government Data Centre located at Telikom Rumana and

- Dataco's offered facility located at Konedobu

Closing Remarks:

The Chair reiterated his earlier remarks on the importance of stakeholders to collaborate in order to realise the successful outcomes of this project. He also thanked the participants for their attendance and input to the meeting.

Resolution:

The Chair announced that the next meeting is to be held 12 March 2015.

The meeting was officially closed at 2.40pm.

Minutes taken by: ....
Andirauga Paru Nongkas

Endorsed by: ....
Kila Gulo-Vui
Chairman

Attachment "A": Meeting Attendees

No.	Name	Organization
1	Kila Gulo-Vui	NICTA
2	Jackson Kariko	NICTA
3	Veari Iru	NICTA
4	Gava Lakau	NICTA
5	Andirauga P Nongkas	NICTA
6	Nishith Muchula	Digitec PNG
7	Rohit Bhatnagar	Digitec PNG
8	Andrew Kidu	Digicel PNG
9	Shiva Kumar	Digicel PNG
10	Pauline Laua	bmobile-Vodafone
11	Anthony Pakakota	bmobile-Vodafone
12	Matane Baining	Datec
13	Annuncia Kokiai	Datec
14	Keith Anderson	Datec
15	Robertson Asari	NISMS
16	Poro Renagi	NISMS
17	Vali Rova	NISMS
18	Kevingu Bore	3VM Information & Communication Services
19	Godfrey Mosuwadoga	3VM Information & Communication Services
20	Priscilla Kevin	PNG Computer Society
21	Une O'Ome	PNG Dataco
22	Tony Morisause	PNG Dataco
23	Bill Tomon	Unitech
24	James Kamau	Telikom PNG
25	Lawrence Geno	Telikom PNG
26	Allan Long	Department of Communication & Information services
27	Noel Mobiha	n/a
28	Andrew Edwards	Global Technologies