

PACIFIC ISLANDS TELECOMMUNICATIONS ASSOCIATION

Regional Report



Presenter: Mr. Ivan Fong : PITA President

What is PITA?

- The Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA) is a non-profit organisation formed to represent the interests of Pacific Islands towards telecommunications / ICT development
- Promote, enhance & improve development in telecommunications services and ICT in the Pacific

About PITA

- Formed in 1997 from the members of Forum Secretariat Telecom Division
- From 9 members representing 8 Pacific Islands Countries & Territories to 43 members from 22 PICTs
- Members are Telecommunications entities from Pacific - Operators, Carriers & Govt. Regulators
- Currently 14 members are Regulators
- Associate Members are suppliers of telecommunications equipment, applications & solutions – 83 Associate Members

The Pacific





Overview

- Competition gradually increasing
 - Driving penetration, especially in mobile
 - Prices somewhat decrease, affordability concerns remain
 - Limited access to broadband
- Similar situation for Internet / Broadband
 - ADSL and wireless access
 - Other supporting infrastructure
 - End user devices
- Some cable but still satellite dependent for transmission – high costs
 - Rural / Urban divide

Pacific Connectivity

- 9 Pacific Islands have subsea optical fiber
 - Potentially 6 more new fiber systems identified
 - However, satellite still the lifeline to outside world
 - ~3Mn in proximity to fiber in urban areas
 - >5Mn accessed via satellite / wireless
 - >3Mn have no access





Key Challenges

- Competition policy
 - Tuning / Balancing Investment and Competition
 - Regional strategy Pacific Digital Strategy
 - Setting goals and measuring success
- Business models are changing
 - Traditional revenues shrinking / commoditisation
 - Harder to compete against International OTT
 - Scale / Scope are becoming more important
 - Internet charging regime does not help







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