Regulatory Environment in Pacific countries

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Director PIRRC
PIRRC – An Introduction

- PIRRC is an ICT Resource Centre for the Pacific
- It is established to:
  - encourage sharing of information and industry data,
  - provide direct assistance to ICT policymakers and regulators
  - collaborate with NRA, policymakers, regional institutions
- Funded by World Bank & ADB and housed in USP
- Only ICT regulatory organization with 100% focus on Pacific

Steering Committee of PIRRC

- Tepu Hunter
  - Cook Island
  - FIJI
- Elizabeth Powell
- Charles Punaha
  - PNG
- Criden Appi
  - Nauru
- Donnie Defreitas
  - Samoa
- Alan Horne
  - Vanuatu
- Kazuyuki Tsuzuki
  - USP

All Pacific Island countries & territories are eligible to draw upon resources of PIRRC
Pacific is a challenging region

- Various levels of regulatory maturity exist
- Level of competition varies from monopolies to full competition
- Availability of indicators
- Spectrum management expertise
- Numbering plans are still being developed in most PICs
- QoS parameters especially broadband are in infancy
- Universal Access schemes are being considered
- Competition & content regulations need to be worked on
- Limited international connectivity

PIRRC is working on overcoming these challenges by assisting
Population is yet another challenge

### Small states

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
<td>17,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>99,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>54,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>10,255</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niue</td>
<td>1,647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>20,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuvalu</td>
<td>9,827</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Larger states

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>860,623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM</td>
<td>111,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>6,858,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>183,081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solomon Islands</td>
<td>538,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>101,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>239,651</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: National statistic bodies, ITU, PIRRC, World Bank
### Monopolies

- Cook Islands
- FSM
- Kiribati
- Niue
- RMI
- Tuvalu

### Competition

- Fiji
- Nauru*
- Palau**
- PNG
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- Tonga
- Vanuatu

* Nauru has Rontel (fixed) & Digicel (mobile)
** No interconnection between PNCC & Palau Mobile
**Separate Regulator**

- **No separate regulator**
  - Cook Islands
  - FSM
  - Nauru
  - Niue
  - Palau
  - RMI
  - Tonga*
  - Tuvalu

- **Separate regulator**
  - Fiji
  - Kiribati
  - PNG
  - Samoa
  - Solomon Islands
  - Vanuatu

* Tonga is working on creating a separate regulator
Divergence in licensing

- Broadcasting License
- GSM License
- ISP License
- IGW License
- Calling Card License

Service specific licenses

- Network License
- Application License
- Content License

Converged licensing

- Telecommunications services license
- Radio spectrum license

Unified licensing

PIRRC is working on harmonization of regulations across region based on best practices
ICT penetration as of Dec 2010

* TRR Vanuatu is revising mobile penetration
Major ICT programs in region

**World Bank**
- Regulatory reforms (RMI, FSM, Kiribati, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga)
- Pacific Regional connectivity: (1) Tonga-Fiji connectivity, (2) Samoa, Palau/FSM: under consideration

**ADB**
- Submarine cable: (1) Tonga-Fiji connectivity (co-financed with WB, (2) FSM/Palau: under consideration)

**ITU**
- ICT Policies
- Cybercrime legislation
- Broadband Policies

**APT**
- Policy Regulation Forum

**SPC**
- ICT Outreach

**PIRRC**
- International best practices & benchmarking
- Direct assistance to policy makers & regulators
- Sharing of information and data collection
## Snapshot of PIRRC activities

### WHAT WE DID: 2011-2012
- PIRRC website
- Initial hiring
- Office opening
- Workshop with regulators
- Roster of Experts
- Indicators of PICs
- Basic regulatory information
- NRA web benchmarking
- Visit to Pacific countries
- Rapid response programme
- Meetings with stakeholders
- PIRRC Blog
- Tracking important ICT events
- Logo competition

### WHAT IS OUR PLAN: 2012-2013
- Regional survey
- Holding of AGM
- First annual report
- NRA website benchmarking
- Benchmarking of IDD and regional roaming
- STCs on Model Universal Access / Service Policy & Organisation
- Toolkit for writing quality determinations
- Information Packages and Best Practice Statements
- Speed tests of Broadband
- Tool for comparison of tariff
- Participation in or organising regional events

### WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES:
- Various levels of regulatory maturity exist in the Pacific Region
- Level of competition also varies from monopolies to full competition
- Availability of indicators
- Spectrum management expertise are needed
- Numbering plans are still being developed
- Quality of service parameters especially broadband are in infancy
- Universal Access schemes are being considered
- Tariff regulations especially for wholesale are not yet in place
- Competition and content regulations need to be worked on
- Litigation is rampant for various reasons
- International connectivity is a bottleneck
Thank You

For more information please visit:

www.pirrc.org