

PRESS RELEASE

Pacific Islands to be heard at the Internet Governance Forum

Pacific Islands to voice their opinion about how the Internet should be run through the remote hubs from the 27-30 September, 2011.

The Pacific will contribute and participate in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from the 27 – 30 September 2011. Workshop topics align with the pillars of the Pacific Plan, which include good governance, security, sustainable development, and economic growth.

To continue to build this participation regionally and globally, local organisations host local hubs where anyone can watch and participate. In the Pacific region, the Pacific ICT community will be hosting a remote hub, using state of the art videoconference rooms in the Japan-Pacific ICT centre at the University of the South Pacific's (USP) regional campuses. Pacific stakeholders can take part remotely via a moderator and be a part of the diverse and rich resources the IGF offers.

The theme of this years Forum is "The Internet as a catalyst for change, access, development, freedoms, and innovation". Tenanoia Simona, the Hub Coordinator in Tuvalu pointed out that a key role the IGF will play going forward is to enable access to the "next billions" of users who will come online, the majority of them which are likely to be from the Asia Pacific region.

"It is essential that developing economies have the ability to access the Internet. The IGF provides the space where local and regional collaboration catalyses these changes".

The Internet Governance Forum is a yearly meeting where Internet stakeholders (including Civil Society, Government, the Technical Community and Business) from around the world discuss the latest issues about the Internet they want. It follows an open, multi-stakeholder governance model, enabling developing economies like the Pacific to engage with these stakeholders to enhance their understanding of topical issues and share relevant best practice information. It is a place of robust discussion where decisions made are not binding.

Herman Kunsei, the Hub Coordinator in Papua New Guinea and Rajiv Prasad, the Hub Coordinator in Fiji stressed that powerful collaboration, outreach, and inclusiveness has helped to bring about these discussions in a more harmonious way.

The remote hub in Tuvalu is gathering government departments, church groups, communities, representatives from remote islands.

To see the list of Plenaries, Open Forums and Workshops at the Internet Governance Forum, or to participate, see <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/w2011/list-of-workshops-2011> .

For information on the remote hub nearest to your location, see <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/remote-participation-2011/list-of-remote-hubs-2011> .

This initiative is supported by members of the Pacific ICT community through PICISOC, the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA), the University of the South Pacific, APNIC, Internet New Zealand, Pacific Internet Partnerships and the United Nations Internet Governance Forum Secretariat.

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