

# Panel 4: Building regional connectivity for sustainable development: the creation of a seamless regional information space

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### What are we discussing

- Background relevant issues for the Pacific.
- Growth and development challenges.
- ICT and development opportunities.
- Capacity and access as an enabler of a knowledge networked society.
- Infrastructure and regulatory challenges in the Pacific.
- Next Steps: Developing new knowledge in traditional cultures.



#### Infrastructure and regional strategies

Economic Infrastructure (including ICT) is included in:

- Pacific Plan
- Pacific Plan priorities
- Forum (Cairns) Compact; and
- Waiheke Declaration

Focus is on <u>greater investment</u> in infrastructure and its role in <u>creating the enabling environment</u> for sustainable economic development.



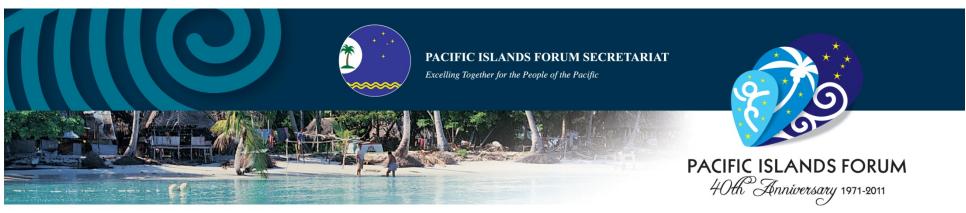
### **ICT Capacity as an Enabler**

• The ICT Ministers stated in their Wellington Declaration that 'While the Pacific region faces a number of obstacles to the effective deployment of communications and other infrastructure, we acknowledge that the region also stands to benefit enormously from the effective use of ICTs'.



### **The Regional Policy Environment**

- Regional ICT Policy is the FAIDP. It have several themes
  - Leadership, governance, coordination and partnerships.
  - ICT policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks
  - ICT human capacity
  - ICT infrastructure and access
  - International interconnectivity
  - Cyber security and ICT applications
  - Financing, monitoring and evaluation.



# The Pacific

Economic Challenge of operating in the region.

- Small markets.
- Large distances.
- State owned companies.
- Developing competitive environment.

However

• Good base of local skills, rising demand for ICT and political support for interconnection - SPIN.





# **Current Access**

nks in the region are mature rn Cross for Fiji and Tonga. 'acific well served. lands rely on satellite. ial opportunities being developed for 2.

i (Hawaii to New Zealand with spurs). nfrastructure only one part.