

The Final Draft  
Recommendations for PALM 2006 Focused on ICT projects

By Pacific Islands Digital Opportunity Research Committee\*

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1. Prioritize ICT for Pacific Islands

1.1 The Asia Broadband Program, which is an international strategic part of the e-Japan Strategy II of Prime Minister Office of Japan, includes Pacific Island Countries. WSIS has also given special attention on the PICs.

1.2 There is a need to identify a concrete project for the Pacific islands conjunct with both the Asia Broadband Program and WSIS, and collaboration with UN organizations such as UNESCO, UNDP, WHO.

1.3 Japanese government should take an initiative in these activities. For this, the study/research committee on ICT should be established to promote dialogue with stakeholders such as PIF, UNU, and PIDO.

2. Okinawa-Hawaii Collaboration Project Initiative

2.1 Output of MOFA's support: The Center for Asia Pacific Islands Study at the University of Ryukyus, and the Research Institute for Subtropics, have both already implemented network and pilot projects with Hawaii and undertaken regional meetings and the sharing of programs and opportunities.

2.2 Need: PICs have a need to develop a capacity to assess, plan and manage activities to achieve environmentally conscience sustainable development.

2.3 Recommendation: To develop an education and training program focused on environment management through distance learning in the Pacific Islands region in support of the "Decade of Education for Sustainable Development" project. This program will include cross-listed advanced and undergraduate courses directed at environmental and sustainable development.

2.4 Partners: University of Ryukyus, Center for Asia Pacific Islands Study (JP), Research Institute for Subtropics (JP), University of Hawaii (US); University of the South Pacific (Regional); James Cook University (Australia), Victoria University (New Zealand).

2.5 Project will interconnect using USPNNet, AARNNet (Australia Advanced Research Network), PEACESAT, Asia-Pacific Advanced Network (APAN), JICANet, and Internet2.

2.6 Next Step: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Okinawa Prefecture Government (Research Institute for the Subtropics) will hold a meeting in Okinawa in February 2006 to create a more concrete strategy and action plan.

3. Okinawa has the potential to become the stronghold for Pacific Islands projects.

3.1 There is an idea to set up the UNU Pacific Islands Region Center of Excellence Open Education at University of Ryukyus (suggested by Rector of UNU).

3.2 Need: Proposal for the development of an International Center for Education of Sustainable Development in collaboration with the United Nations University and collaborating partners in the Pacific Islands region, Japan, Hawaii, Australia, New Zealand, and United States. Development of distance, distributed, and flexible ICT based education and training. Focal areas include: environment, health, and ICT. This Center will focus on development of policy, planning and technical education and training programs in the three focal areas and use/build open source and open content educational objects.

3.3 Implementing Partners: University of the Ryukyus (Japan); United Nations University; University of South Pacific (Region); National University of Samoa (Samoa); University of Hawaii (US); University of Guam; College of Micronesia; College of Marshall Islands; College of Palau; College of CNMI, College of Guam and Japan International Cooperation Agency.

4. ICT Development – Policy and Program Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

4.1 Japanese Government provided one million US dollars to UNDP to assist PICs in the development of national strategies – “e-Pasifika.” A focus of national strategies has been towards a monopoly environment. Many countries want to address issues of ICT in social and economic development.

4.2 Status: e-Pasifika assisted PIC’s in forming ICT policies. More than 10 countries created an ICT national strategy. Many countries have identified a need for policy, regulation, and liberalization.

4.3 Need: Follow up assistance to countries to implement the National e-Pasifika

Strategy. For PICs to implement plans, there is need to develop human resources knowledge and skills in ICT and telecommunications technology, regulation, and other liberalization issues.

4.4 Recommendation: To provide education and training in ICT in the areas of technology, ICT systems and services, ICT policy and regulation, and ICT application and management.

4.5 Solution: Develop regional ICT policy and management education and training program that is articulated within the educational systems of the region.

## 5. USPNet Upgrade and Capacity Building

5.1 With the upgraded technologies, USP has joined international joint curriculum such as API (Asia Pacific Initiative).

5.2 Recommendation: Encourage interlinkages with such networks as JICANet, GDLN, PEACESAT, and others, etc. to expand programs and value of network. Connectivity through GDLN is very expensive with ISDN. So the use of Internet Protocol and bridges is very important.

5.3 Recommendation: To enable USPNet to be shared and used by other regional programs and national educational and health care agencies. Countries that permit the shared use will receive additional capacity.

## 6. E-health

6.1 Pacific Open Learning Health Network (POLHN) is established within 10 PI countries with Japanese ODA.

6.2 Need to follow up sustainability of this network, and enrich contents especially with Japanese cooperation. Ministry of Health in Pacific Island Countries are highly evaluating POLHN program and wish to upgrade and expand network especially for the remote islands.

6.3 Common problem among POLHN sites is the very slow access to the Internet. There are strong needs to realize broadband access to the Internet in order to ensure effective and efficient use of POLHN.

## 7. e-Health

7.1 There is a strong need to develop health information and health reporting

systems in the PICs, especially for patient medical referrals between hospitals and during disaster mitigation. Furthermore, in 2005 WHO endorsed e-Health as an official area of focus.

7.2 Need: There is a need for a low cost, standards based, open source clinical information system that can generate the required reports.

7.3 Action: Initiate a joint (WHO-Japan-US) open-source electronic health record pilot project in the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands or Republic of Palau.

## 8. Telecenter project

8.1 A major success case of Telecenter in PICs is the PFNet (People First Net) of Solomon Islands, developed by Solomon Islands in cooperation with UNDP. The Grass Roots Fund of Japanese ODA is the top donor to this project. PFNet is now up-grading its network capability aiming to provide full range of e-applications for rural and remote islands area such as distance education and e-learning for human capacity building of community people and vocational training, e-commerce for trading their local products, e-health and distribution of government and public information such as whether forecast, natural disaster warning.

8.2 Need: For good governance and democracy it is important that information reaches grass roots people. There is a need to assess the role and evaluate the impact of community-level ICT initiatives throughout the Pacific, and to create a regional support strategy.

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