

August 16, 2007

Notes from the PacINET Meeting – Honiara, Solomon Islands, 2007

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These are my notes, with my various hats on, from the meetings in Honiara in August 2007. Rather than try to separate them, I have combined them because the interests of the readers will cross boundaries too. They are written for PIP, InternetNZ, 2020 Communications Trust, APTLD & GKP

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APTLD Meeting

The details of the APTLD meeting were covered in the APTLD Communiqué. See www.aptld.org for details.

Pacific Regulators Meeting

This sounds to have been a bit of a quiet affair with only three of the expected nine countries actually showing up. Of particular note was the presentation by AusCERT on the serious risk from organised crime. This is an issue that directly impacts on the ccTLD community.

PacINET Meeting – Day 1



The usual positive platitudes were issued in the opening remarks, including those of the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands Manasseh Sogavare. Of interest were the repeated positive remarks regarding the PFNet initiative, its move into Satellite based services, and the forthcoming extension of the services from Bekabeka to Batuna. Though no specific credit was given, this last project is supported by GKP & 2020 Trust, among others.

IPv6 – presentations were mixed

- CISCO presenter gave the standard 'the sky is falling' presentation about how soon the IPv4 address space will run out.
- Japanese gave a more up-beat presentation showing all the phenomenal uses that IPv6 can provide, particularly in terms of energy saving through active, detailed monitoring as well as saturation of independent devices and the benefits that their amalgamation could provide.
- TeleGlobe presented the extent of undersea fibre cover – with a hint that this may extend to the Pacific soon.

PIP Lunch (www.pip.org.nz)

PIP fellows, past and present, met up for lunch and to meet and talk about PIP. Not surprising, all felt it was a very worthwhile program. What was interesting was the fairly strong support for the partial scholarship nature of the program. Most commented favourably on the simplicity of the application process, but some questioned the strong focus on Geeks as opposed to those looking at deployment or policy.

This informal feedback, coupled with the reports due upon their return, will be useful for the Partners as they consider the future



of the program as it comes to the end of its 3 year life.

GKP Dinner



We organised for an informal gathering of GKP members who were in town to share their experiences and meet one another. In the end, the group was small for a variety of small issues. Representatives from 2020 Communications Trust, SPC, ICANN, PIDO & Women in ICT enjoyed a South Indian meal in the South Pacific. Other members sent their apologies.

PacINET Meeting – Day 2

This day was focused on ICT & Education – with particular focus on distance learning facilities.



Two interesting examples presented included that of a Japanese Professor based in Brisbane who is using distance tool extensively – and making them readily available (at no cost) to participants in the Pacific. This facility is extremely portable and allows concurrent engagement with multiple participants via video & voice, as well as the usual white board, file sharing, etc... One interesting example cited was the high demand for Asian Language courses in Australia

and the short supply of instructors. The distance education facilities allowed the teaching to be done by native language speakers in their native countries – while their Australian students stay home!

The other interesting presentation was by an Australian primary school teacher who uses it which children living very isolated and remotely, in Australia and abroad. The children were quick to pick up on the tools and they seem to accelerate their cogitative skill development. *Of course this could be due to the one-on-one attention that they get, but there is undoubtedly some positive results stemming from this facility.*

The highlight of the day, if not the conference, was the demonstration of the OLPC – which is far more than just a robust laptop computer. The software is very much aimed at stimulating collaboration and understanding and inquisitiveness. The automated mesh networking and spatial neighbourhood sensing was also impressive by itself.



Dr Jimmie Rodgers of SPC is keen to get 100,000 or more deployed into the Pacific and is preparing a paper for the Forum Leaders meeting in Tonga next month. The trial that the 2020 Trust is involved in, with GKP, will have had little time to show any results – but its existence will be a positive sign.

Bria McElroy of the International Taskforce on Women and ICTs ran a very small (terrible time slot opposite the OLPC Demonstration) session on Women and ICTs. She will be in KL.

I also met with representatives from Cook Islands and Fiji about their Computer Societies. We spoke informally about strategies for membership structure (open or exclusive) as well

as getting people to attend (Beer is always good). I indicated that PIP would be more than happy to help support them in their efforts – through either sponsorship of beer and/or speakers. Any international experts travelling in the country should be lassoed in to share their experiences.

The detailed agenda for the meeting is available at <http://www.picisoc.org/tiki-index.php?page=PaciNET2007Agenda#> i STREAM | 1st Pacific IPv6 Summit |

