DATA X BLUE PACIFIC

23–25 October 2024 • Sydney, Australia

A COLLABORATIVE ENGAGEMENT ON DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

23-25 October 2024 @ The Collider 477 Pitt St, Sydney, Australia & Online

(26 October 2024 ADB staff-only event at PLCO)

About Data x Blue Pacific

The event aims to advance digital transformation and resilience initiatives across Pacific Island Countries (PICs). It will focus on fostering partnerships between governments, development partners, and the private sector to enhance digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and digital public services in the Pacific. The event will feature knowledge sharing, digital ecosystem showcases, and brainstorming sessions, with a focus on the transformative potential of digital technologies in enhancing digital resilience in the region.

Data X Blue Pacific seeks to build momentum toward sustainable digital growth and greater regional cooperation in the Pacific aligned with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific.

It is organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) with funding support from New Zealand Pacific Partnership Fund (NZ PPF).

PRIF's development partners include the Asian Development Bank, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, European Union, European Investment Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, United States Department of State, and the World Bank Group.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DAY 1

23
OCT 2024

Opening & Introductions

1. Setting the Scene for Digital Transformation in the Pacific

2. Hard Digital Infrastructure

3. Data Governance and Management

Reception

DAY 2

24
OCT 2024

4. Financing Opportunities to Support Digital Transformation in the Blue Pacific

5. Stock take of Regional initiatives in Digital Transformation

6. Soft Infrastructure progress in PICs

7. Identifying country needs and aligning with 2050 Strategy and Lagatoi Declaration

8. IoT, Digital Infrastructure, and Cybersecurity Initiatives in the Pacific

DAY 3

25
OCT 2024

9. Climate services and ICT linkages

10. Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development

11. Sharing of Highlights & Actions for Next Steps

Plenary: Concluding Remarks

Bilaterals (as required)

Time	Session
9:00–10:00	**Opening Remarks**
	Welcome addresses and opening remarks from ADB & PRIF partners.
	• **Shane Rosenthal**, Regional Director, PLCO, ADB • **Antonio Zaballos**, Director, CCDT, ADB (**online**) • **Dr. Robert Guild**, Team Leader, PRIF Coordination Office • **Tanya Morjanoff**, Director, Infrastructure Policy and Engagement Section, DFAT • **Katherine Halliburton**, Lead Advisor - Digital; Pacific and Development Group, MFAT • **Kim Tuminaro**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy's Office of International Information and Communications Policy, US Department of State
10:00–10:30	**Introduction of Participants**
	• ADB CO Staff introduce themselves and their respective Country delegates. • PRIF Partners introduce their delegates.
10:30–11:00	**Coffee Break & Group Photo**
11:00–12:30	**Session 1. Setting the Scene for Digital Transformation in the Pacific**
	• **Dr. Amanda Watson**, Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU **Framing presentation.** Widespread access to mobile telephone networks and the internet came late to the Pacific, compared to many parts of the world. There have been many changes and improvements in the past decade or two. Nonetheless, access to, and uptake of, telecommunications vary between Pacific Island nations. This brief presentation sets the scene by outlining the Pacific region's digital connectivity status. It identifies key challenges and points to efforts being made to strive for ubiquity of access. The term 'digital transformation' has become popular in the Pacific in recent years, and the presentation will summarize opportunities such as e-government and e-commerce. • **Pacific Response – An Introduction to the Lagatoi Declaration** • **Steven Matainaho**, Secretary, Department of ICT, Government of Papua New Guinea
	• **Dr. Stefan Hajkowicz**, Principal Scientist in Strategy and Foresight, CSIRO **Overview of the Digital Economy and AI relevant to the development of Pacific Island Nations.** This session will introduce the current landscape of the digital technology and how artificial intelligence (AI) can drive transformative economic development in Pacific Island nations. It will cover the fundamental concepts of AI, explore global trends in AI and digital transformation, and discuss practical applications that can support Pacific Island nations' development objectives. Following the presentation, a facilitated discussion will explore key opportunities and challenges for AI adoption in the Pacific, with a focus on capacity building, infrastructure, and policy frameworks. • **Pacific Response**
12:30–13:30	**Lunch**

13:30–14:30	**Session 2.** Hard Digital Infrastructure
	This panel discussion provides a comprehensive overview of the Pacific Islands' digital infrastructure. Digital infrastructure is an essential driver for economic growth, innovation, social development, and digital transformation. The panel discussion convenes experts to discuss the infrastructure required to support an open, interoperable, secure, and trusted digital ecosystem. The panelists will discuss opportunities, challenges, and potential solutions that might accelerate the growth and advancement of the region's digital infrastructure, ultimately contributing to economic growth and the priorities Pacific Island Countries have identified.
	(i) Submarine Cables • **Dr. Amanda Watson**, Fellow, Department of Pacific Affairs, ANU (Moderator) • **Suzanne Bent**, Director, Telecommunications Unit, AIFFP, DFAT AIFFP submarine cable projects • **Kim Tuminaro**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy's Office of International Information and Communications Policy, US Department of State • **Shirshendu Bhattacharya**, Global Submarine Product & Service Innovation Lead, Google (**online**) • **Sonia Jorge,** Founder and Executive Director, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership
14:30–15:30	**(ii) Data Centers, Telecommunications, and Private Sector Investment** • **David Lloyd**, Senior Investment Executive, Pacific Private Sector – Suva, Fiji; Consultant, PSOD, ADB (Moderator) • **Ivan Fong**, CEO, ATH Group (Amalgamated Telecom Holdings Ltd) • **Jacques-Samuel Prolon**, Executive Vice President - Corporate Development, Kacific • **Tahani Iqbal**, Digital Development Specialist, ADB
15:30–16:00	**Coffee Break**
16:00–17:30	**Session 3.** Data Governance and Management
	The panel will bring together experts to discuss domestic, regional, and global efforts to promote consistency and interoperability in data transfers. This panel will aim to capture some of the data privacy and international data transfer developments across the Pacific Islands and discuss the path forward for data governance and management.
	• **James Neumann**, Senior Counsel, Digital Development Global Practice, The World Bank (Moderator) • **Dr. Ian Oppermann**, Co-Founder ServiceGen; Former NSW Government Chief Data Scientist (**online**) • **Mohammad Chowdhury**, Long Street Advisors (DFAT Consultant) • **Kim Tuminaro**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy's Office of International Information and Communications Policy, US Department of State • **Mr. Jonathan Palmer**, Consultant, Data Governance for Digital Transformation, APCICT
18:00–20:00	**Reception**

9:00–10:00	**Session 4.** Financing Opportunities to Support Digital Transformation in the Blue Pacific
	During this panel, PRIF partners will provide an overview of their respective organization's funding mechanisms in support of the Blue Pacific's digital transformation vision.
	ADB, Pacific Approach & Country Partner Strategies • **Said Zaidansyah**, Country Director, Papua New Guinea Resident Mission, ADB • **Jung Ho Kim**, Principal Operations Coordination Specialist, Pacific Department, ADB • **Tanya Morjanoff**, Director, Infrastructure Policy and Engagement Section, DFAT • **Katherine Halliburton**, Lead Advisor - Digital; Pacific and Development Group, MFAT • **Kathleen (Katie) M. Donahue**, Senior Coordinator Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP), Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP), U.S. Department of State
10:00–10:30	**Coffee Break**
10:30–11:00	**Session 5.** Stock take of Regional Initiatives in Digital Transformation
	Paul Twomey, PRIF (Consultant) (Moderator)
	(i). Now that we have the Cables: Capacity Building and Adapting to Change - Practical Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration in the Pacific for a Better Internet
	• **Bruce Tonkin**, COO, auDA • **Jane Smith**, Chief People and Culture Officer, auDA The Wellington Forum was a high-level discussion on approaches to improve multi-stakeholder contributions to the practical development of the Internet in the Pacific Islands. The two-day Forum brought together donors, technical community and PIC Internet coordination organisations forum to share what they are doing and their needs. The Country Code operators for Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands and Cook Islands participated; as did a number of cybersecurity experts. The Wellington Forum was a rich environment for consulting stakeholders and mapping present efforts and needs.
11:00–11:45	**(ii). Regional Lessons from implementation of the PALM scheme**
	• **Jordan Duffy**, CIO of Pacific Labour Facility (Consultant) The Pacific Australia Labour Mobility (PALM) scheme allows eligible Australian businesses to hire workers from 9 Pacific islands and Timor-Leste when there are not enough local workers available.
11:45–12:30	**(iii). Stocktake of Regional initiatives in Digital Transformation**
	• **Paul Twomey**, PRIF (Consultant) Summary of reports over last decade issues/opportunities lessons learned so far, Criteria for decision-making, Opportunities.
12:30–13:30	**Lunch**

13:30–14:45	**Session 6. Soft Infrastructure progress in PICs (Digital ID, eGovernment, etc.)**
	• **Krisstina Rao & David Eaves,** DPI Map Project (**online**) • **James Neumann**, World Bank (Moderator & Presenter) • **Steven Matainaho**, Secretary, Department of ICT, Government of Papua New Guinea • **Ashish Narayan**, Program Coordinator, ITU (**online**) • **Jeff Montgomery**, Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Adviser for the Pacific Community (SPC) (**online**)
14:45–15:45	**Session 7. Brainstorming session: Identifying country needs, aligning with 2050 Strategy & Lagatoi Declaration**
	The Pacific ICT Ministerial Dialogue 2023 brought together ICT Ministers and Heads of Delegation from across the Pacific Island Countries and Territories to foster collaboration, discuss challenges, and chart a course for the digital future of the region. The highlight of the event was the signing of the Lagatoi Declaration on Digital Transformation of the Pacific.
	• **Pedro Tavares**, Public Management Specialist (Digital Transformation), CCDT, ADB
15:45–16:00	**Coffee Break**
16:00–17:30	**Session 8. IoT, Digital Infrastructure & Cybersecurity Initiatives in the Pacific**
	• **Mohan Baruwal Chhetri, Data 61** Moderator
	• **Mohan Baruwal Chhetri, Data 61,** Recent developments in Internet-of-Things (IoT) devices and the digital infrastructure needed to support them, particularly in the context of the Pacific Island nations. Unique cybersecurity challenges posed by IoT connectivity and strategies for building secure and resilient digital ecosystems. Topics will include best practices for managing cybersecurity risks, securing IoT networks, & ensuring data privacy in digital transformations. • **Luke Slattery**, Director, Telecommunications Policy, Connectivity and Infrastructure Policy Branch, DFAT • **Mitchell Dunn**, Director, Pacific Cyber Cooperation, Internation Security Division, DFAT • Digital infrastructure, digital development, cloud solutions, cybersecurity and policy concerns • **Hayley Kim**, Policy Officer – Digital and Cyber Security, Development Economy and Prosperity (DEVECO) Division, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade • **Kim Tuminaro**, Deputy Director, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy's Office of International Information and Communications Policy, US Department of State • **Anju Mangal**, Chief of Party, USAID Pacific Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity (**online**) • **John Avila**, Senior Economic Growth Specialist, OEDG, USAID Philippines (**online**) • **Digital Connectivity and Cybersecurity Partnership (DCCP)**

9:00–10:30	**Session 9.** Climate services and ICT linkages
	Showcase digital applications in effectively disseminating climate services in the region.
	• **Paolo Manunta**, Senior Digital Technology Specialist (Earth Observation), CCDT, ADB (Moderator & Presenter "Geospatial ADB initiatives and opportunities")
	• **Mahesh Prakash,** Data 61, CSIRO **Data-driven and AI-enabled approaches for climate and hazard forecasting.** This session will delve into the use of data science and AI for climate and natural hazard forecasting. It will demonstrate how cutting-edge AI models can predict extreme weather events, such as cyclones and floods, and their potential impacts on Pacific communities and infrastructure. Real-world case studies will show how these technologies have been applied in other regions to improve disaster preparedness and resilience.
	• **Patricia Mallam**, Knowledge Broker, Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications Programme, Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (**online**)
	• **Bruce M. Howe**, Research Professor, Department of Ocean and Resources Engineering (ORE), School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology (SOEST) (**online**) • The Science Monitoring And Reliable Telecommunications (SMART) Subsea Cables initiative
	• **Dulip Tillekeratne**, Strategic Partnerships Director, Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation GSMA & EW4All
10:30–11:00	**Coffee Break**

Time	
11:00–12:30	**Session 10. Digital Capacity Building and Skills Development**
	• **Pedro Tavares**, Public Management Specialist (Digital Transformation), CCDT, ADB
	• **Sajib Azad**, Digital Governance Specialist, Digital Democracy Manager, UNDP (**online**) • **Ali Akram**, Regional Programme Manager (IDE), UNCDF (**online**) **UNDP, UNCDF & Pacific Digital Economy Program (PDEP)** - Digital and Financial Literacy Surveys - Capacity Building Across Pacific Islands + Scam Awareness - Digital / Financial Literacy and Education - Mobile Money and Financial Inclusion - Digital Innovation for Public Services
	• **John Jack**, Deputy CIO, OGCIO, Government of Vanuatu • **Dalsie Green Baniala**, National Project Manager, Smart Islands (**online**) **Lessons from ITU Smart Island Smart Village pilot South Malekula and Next Steps** The Smart Villages and Smart Islands model is based on a whole-of-government approach and is demand-driven, user-centric, flexible, and focused on sustainability, scalability, and multi-sector collaboration. It is designed to manifest digital transformation at the community level, to leave no one behind. The approach focuses on four key pillars (i) improving broadband connectivity (ii) making broadband affordable (iii) enhancing digital skills (iv) and providing digital services, to impact people's lives based on their local priorities.
	• **Helen Teixeira**, Consulting Director at Palo Alto Networks Unit 42 **Palo Alto Networks "Pacific Island Cyber Preparedness Series: Lessons from Cook Islands."** This program represents the inaugural phase of a comprehensive cybersecurity improvement initiative for the region, laying the foundation for ongoing discussions and progress. Pacific participants will gain a high-level understanding of cybersecurity issues and imperatives, effective approaches to manage cyber risk, the global cyber threat environment as well as key considerations and actions to take when preparing for a cyber incident.
	• **Sonia Jorge,** Founder and Executive Director, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership • Digital inclusion, gender equality for meaningful access
	• **Dulip Tillekeratne**, Strategic Partnerships Director, Mobile for Humanitarian Innovation GSMA Capacity Building Initiatives
12:30–13:30	**Lunch**
13:30–14:30	**Session 11. Sharing of Highlights & Actions for Next Steps**
14:30–15:00	**Plenary: Concluding Remarks**
15:00	**Hard Stop at Collider Venue**
15:30–17:30	**Opportunity for Bilateral meetings at ADB Pacific Liaison Coordination Office** **Directions to ADB PLCO Level 20/45 Clarence Street**

9:00–10:30	**Session 12.** ADB Reflection and Ideation
10:30–11:00	**Coffee Break**
11:00–12:30	**Session 13.** Way forward (business development, technical assistance, P2P Learning, etc.)
12:30–14:00	**Lunch**
14:00–15:30	**Session 14.** Wrap up and farewell

About PRIF

The Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) is a multi-partner coordination and technical assistance (TA) facility that aims to improve the quality and coverage of infrastructure and service delivery in the Pacific.

Launched in 2008, PRIF provides an interface between development partners and its Pacific member countries. Its aim is to enhance the coordination of partner investments in the Pacific and provide technical advice on infrastructure development and sustainable management.

PRIF's operations cover 13 Pacific member countries: the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Papua New Guinea is an associate member country.

PRIF's development partners include the Asian Development Bank, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, European Union, European Investment Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, United States Department of State, and the World Bank Group.

PRIF's overarching goal is improved quality and coverage of infrastructure investments and service delivery in member countries.

About Data x ADB

A curated series of engagements between ADB staff and developing member country partners, Data x ADB helps raise awareness on the opportunities, challenges and cutting-edge approaches related to data and data analytics, ranging from policies and programs to digital infrastructure and capacities.

With Data x ADB, we aim to boost the adoption of data analytics and data insights to deliver new products and services, to drive innovation and strategy and to inform evidence-based policy. Improvements in data analytics and artificial intelligence give organizations an edge over their competition and empower decision-makers to anticipate events, choices and preferences of their customers, clients or constituents.

ADB aims to be a trusted partner with its developing member countries (DMCs) in their digital transformation journey, accompanying and assisting through its various support mechanisms. The Data x ADB engagements will provide a platform for dialogue, mutual learning and ideation on how ADB may be able to respond to your needs and aspirations. Each Data x ADB workshop is hosted in a regional Member country that has a vibrant digital ecosystem, providing an opportunity to gain insights from best practice and to inspire conversations about opportunities for partnership and collaboration.