

# Agenda 17.1: Progress of the PICI (Pacific Islands Communications Infrastructure) Panel

Mulipola Ausetelia Titimaea, Chair,  
PICI Panel, and Director, Meteorology  
Division, Samoa MNRE



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# Objective

- To provide updates on the progress of the Pacific Islands Communications Infrastructure (PICI) panel work plan and activities



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# PICI Panel Established, August 24, 2016 Honiara, Solomon Islands,



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**Pacific Meteorological Council's Pacific Island  
Communication  
&  
Infrastructure Panel  
13 & 15 May, 2017 Tanoa Hotel, Nadi, Fiji.**



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# PICI Panel Purpose

- The purpose of the PICI Panel is to provide technical advice to the PMC on matters related to the observational and communications infrastructure supporting communications and dissemination of national and regional hydro-meteorological and oceanographic/tsunami (seismic and sea level) observations, forecasts, and warnings within the Pacific islands region;
- and to strengthen national and regional multi-hazard early warning and prediction for high impact severe weather, tropical cyclone, marine, and tsunami events, and carry out work on implementation.



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# PICI Panel Purpose

- The PICI Panel has been set up so they may advise relevant agencies and entities, as required by PMC, at the national and regional level that are providers of national telecommunications, Internet, VHF, HF, FM, and satellite based observational communications systems;
- As well as regional and national telecommunications regulators, regarding licensing issues that contribute to the improvement in of the infrastructure supporting national meteorological services and others with multi-hazard early warning and prediction responsibilities (e.g. NDMO, Port Authorities, Fisheries, Geological, and other national services, including those focusing on reaching the disabled community.



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# Background Information

- The PICI previously existed as the RANET (Radio and Internet for the Communications of Hydro-Meteorological and Climate Related Information) ad-hoc working group on communications that was set up in 2003 at the Regional Meteorological Directors Meeting (RMSD) in Vava'u, Tonga.



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## 2<sup>nd</sup> PICI Panel Meeting in Nadi, May 2017

- The Second PICI panel meeting in Nadi;
- Engaged key partners in the region to discuss the communication and dissemination of meteorological and warning information
- Revisited the PICI Panel's Terms of Reference, and agreed to update them to reflect the updated PIMS (2017-2030), and the new PKO 8 (Integrated Observations and Communications)
- Explored opportunities to improve coordination between national and regional communications providers, regulators and regulatory frameworks
- Recognised the need for NMHS's to collaborate and actively participate in the development of their National Emergency Telecommunication Plan (NETP)
- Recognised that there are challenges and costs of communicating information and warnings
- Acknowledged the need to work closely with the WMO-RAV Working Group on Infrastructure



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# PICI and other Panels using Virtual Meetings using Zoom



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# Recommendation

- **Endorse** the PICI panel TOR and the current members of the Panel, and invited PMC members and partners to recommend others who have expertise in observational systems and multi-hazard communications networks to support the Panel's work;
- **Acknowledge FINPAC, WMO, UCAR/COMET/NOAA and SPREP** for supporting the face-to-face meetings of the Panel;
- **Acknowledge and Request** the continued support from the University of Hawaii Telecommunications And Social Informatics (TASI) Research Program (formerly PEACESAT Program) for providing the teleconference facilities to host meetings;
- **Recommend** that NMHSs collaborate on the development of the NETP with their National Telecommunication Regulators Offices to ensure that their priorities are reflected in the plans



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