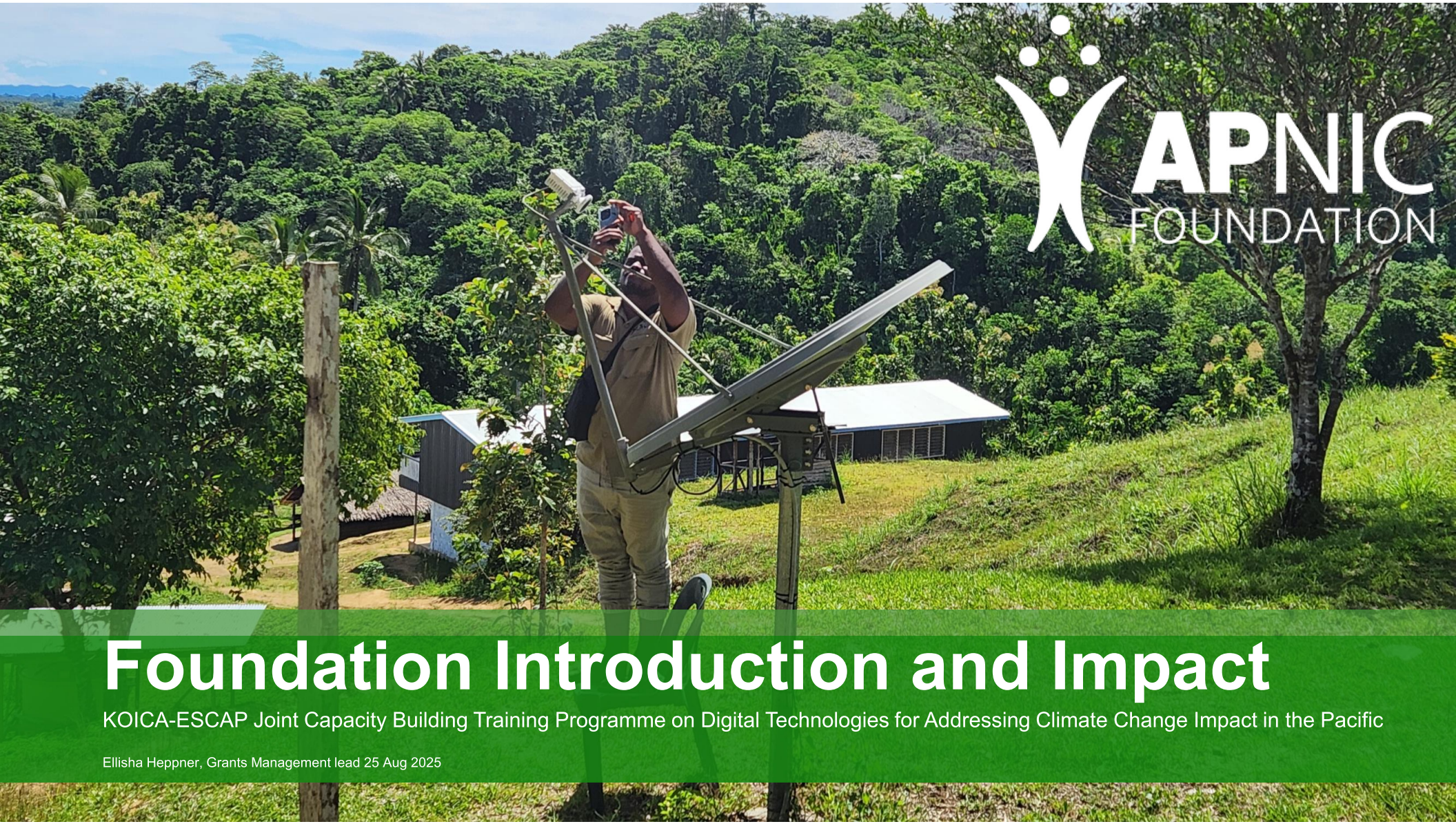


Foundation Introduction and Impact

KOICA-ESCAP Joint Capacity Building Training Programme on Digital Technologies for Addressing Climate Change Impact in the Pacific

Ellisha Heppner, Grants Management lead 25 Aug 2025

The APNIC Foundation

- The Foundation evolved from technical roots, and it applies that knowledge to support a global, open, stable and secure Internet that is affordable and accessible for our Asia Pacific people.

- The Foundation has a mission to increase investment in Internet development in the Asia Pacific region, through education and training, human capacity building, community development, research, and related projects and activities

- The Foundation supports digital development in three key areas: Infrastructure, Inclusion and Knowledge.







Background

1993

Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)

A neutral, independent, not-for-profit, membership-based organization established in 1993

Managing Internet number resources IPv4, IPv6 and ASNs

Serving APAC region

2008

ISIF Asia is the Foundation's grant fund. It was officially launched in 2008.

ISIF Asia provides grant and award funding for Internet development projects supporting Infrastructure, Inclusion and Knowledge in the Asia Pacific.

ISIF Asia was transferred to the Foundation from 2017.

2017

Discussions began among the APNIC Executive Council (EC) when it set out to expand the APNIC Development Program. Those discussions led to the establishment of APNIC Foundation.

It became operational in early 2017.

2021

The School on Internet Asia (SOI Asia) is led by Keio University. It was launched in 2001 as a platform for inter-university education and research programs among institutions throughout Asia, focused on science and Internet-related domains. In 2021, SOI Asia and the Foundation began working together.

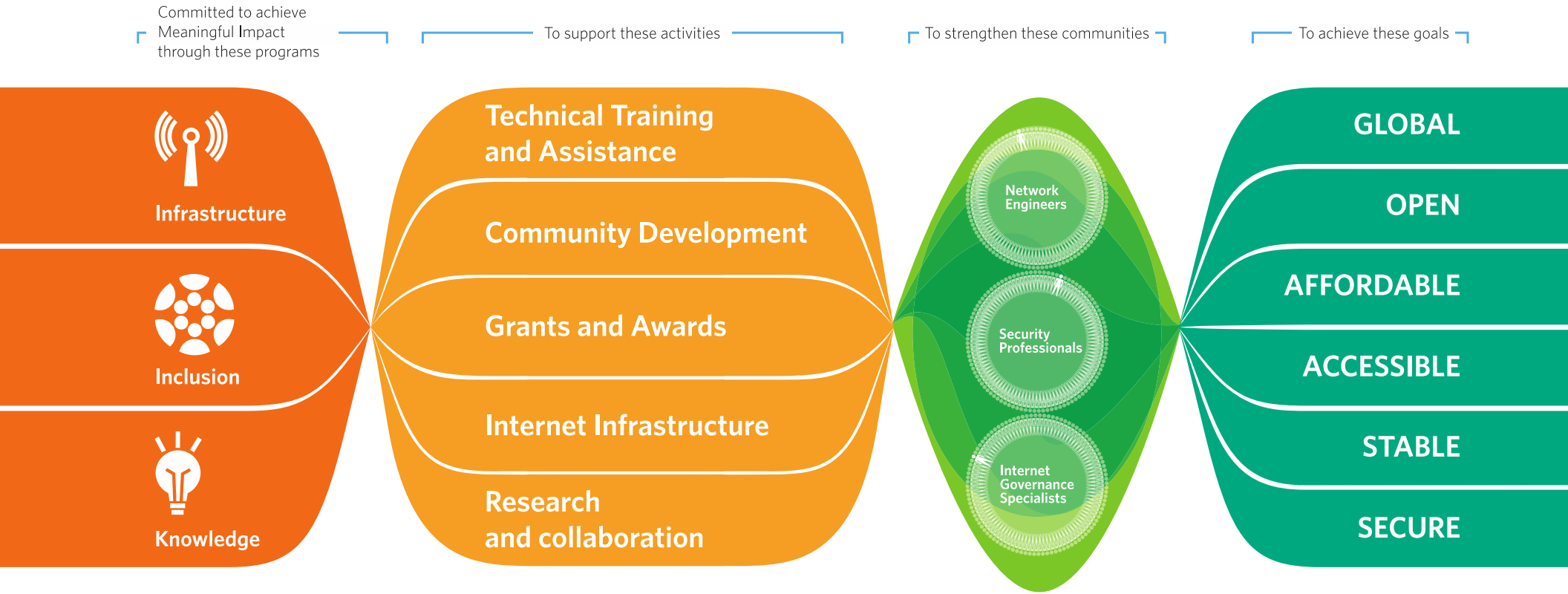


Video: Unpacking the Internet

How is the APNIC Foundation tackling digital development

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ahseRRiVy8&t=5s

How the Foundation Works



Our Work (apnic.foundation)

Our Strategy on a Page

A new era

This strategic plan paves the way for APNIC Foundation's transformative journey from 2025 to 2028, harnessing the Internet's potential to tackle critical global challenges.

Our Belief

We believe that the Internet has the power to drive economic and social progress and transform lives.

Our Purpose

Our purpose is to serve as the collective impact backbone that connects and facilitates a network of partners. We invest in and channel resources toward digital development in APAC to drive socio-economic transformation and equity.

Our Strategic Objectives. By 2028,

As a collective impact backbone for an ecosystem of partners, we will:

1. Enhance technical capability of more than 100,000 people
2. Enhance digital inclusion for 1 million people
3. Help shape and influence techno-policy transformation in at least 10 economies

Strategic pillars and outcomes: What we will focus on

1 Building Capabilities

- **Outcome 1.1:** Internet users have reliable, safe, and meaningful access to the Internet
- **Outcome 1.2:** A robust Internet ecosystem is nurtured through collaboration and knowledge sharing by inclusive communities of practice
- **Outcome 1.3:** Communities gain better access to knowledge and have more opportunities for better livelihoods

2 Driving Digital Innovation

- **Outcome 2.1:** New and evolving Internet and digital technologies responsibly further socio-economic outcomes
- **Outcome 2.2:** Stakeholders' actions are grounded in unbiased frameworks that are vendor-neutral and tech-neutral

3 Supporting Digital Transformation

- **Outcome 3.1:** Stakeholders intervene based on coordinated and informed technical and policy advice
- **Outcome 3.2:** Governments nurture supportive techno-policy environments to facilitate digital development and further socio-economic progress
- **Outcome 3.3:** Establish leadership for collective impact for digital development

4 Business Sustainability

- **Outcome 4.1:** Financial resilience through sustained and diversified income sources
- **Outcome 4.2:** Organisational culture of operational excellence

Enablers: These underpin all that we do

1 Knowledge and Innovation

We prioritise data-driven insights, evidence-based interventions, and innovation to improve our practices and outcomes. Using this approach, we ensure agility and the capability to implement impactful solutions that lead the sector and drive meaningful change.

2 People and Partnership

Our success stems from creating an inclusive and supportive environment – including dedicated employees, strong partnerships, equitable actions, and effective funding collaborations – which will contribute to our collective success.

3 Communication and Impact

We build trust with stakeholders, demonstrate accountability, and highlight the tangible benefits of our work using effective communication and rigorous monitoring, evaluation, and learning frameworks.

Our Values

- **Excellence & Ingenuity**
- **Integrity in Action**
- **Diversity and Inclusion**
- **Collaborative Success**

Foundation Programs

INFRASTRUCTURE

Efforts to increase Internet speed, reduce maintenance and operational costs, improve reliability and/or security from a technical and operational perspective.

Network deployment and operations
Network monitoring and management
Security and privacy







Foundation Programs

INCLUSION

Efforts to ensure that everyone has meaningful and efficient access to the Internet, online applications and services, from a technical and operational perspective.

Availability of connectivity
Internet access affordability
Accessibility
Diversity







Foundation Programs

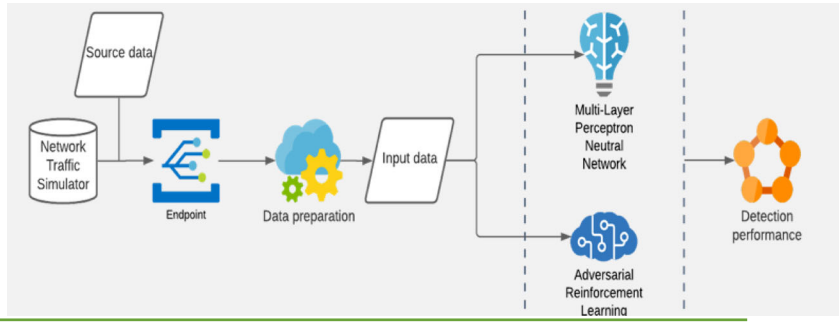
KNOWLEDGE

Efforts to develop technical capacity and/or research around Internet network operations, from a technical and operational perspective.

Professional development
New Information and training resources
Translation of knowledge resources into Asia Pacific languages







Foundation Activities

Community Support Project

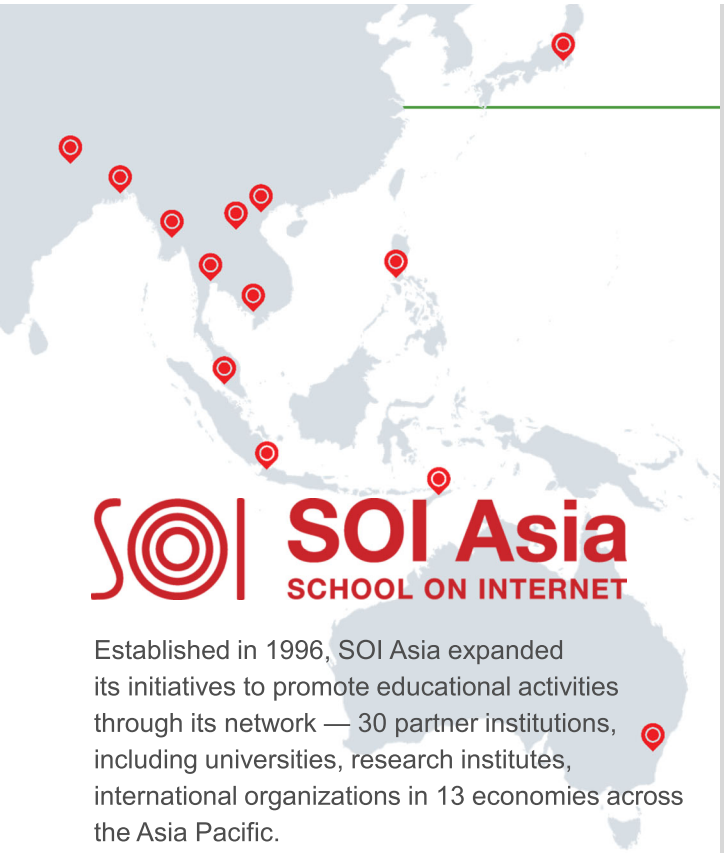
- ISIF Asia: Grants open to organizations based in the Asia Pacific.
- Foundation Community Assistance: By invitation.
- Trust Discretionary Fund: By invitation, typically smaller funding, often for events to support the community.

Foundation-led Projects

- These are projects managed and administered by the Foundation. Key projects include:
- Switch!
- Digital Leap South Asia

Partner Cooperation Projects

- These are projects supported via the Foundation but administered by partners. These include projects run by APNIC and Keio University, such as the APNIC Academy and SOI Asia's APIE Program.



SOI Asia
SCHOOL ON INTERNET

Established in 1996, SOI Asia expanded its initiatives to promote educational activities through its network — 30 partner institutions, including universities, research institutes, international organizations in 13 economies across the Asia Pacific.

With Keio University (Japan) as a hub, SOI Asia focuses is on contributing to the development of a more resilient society in the Asia Pacific by working more closely with partner institutions through research and education.

APNIC FOUNDATION

PROJECTS IN SOI ASIA

The **research, development, operation, and education** initiatives within the SOI Asia community are structured as below:

CBR Community Based Research Framework

EBA Education for Social Resilience

APIE Education for Internet Infrastructure Resilience

INXIGNIA — ID - Micro-credential Digital Platform

DHASH — Research Data Platform for Promoting Open Science

SARENAPAC — Research Network Testbed

SARENAPAC — ARENA-PAC Research and Education Network (REN)

Digital Leap South Asia – training the most unconnected region on earth

South Asia is home to a staggering 57% of the world's offline population (ITU, 2022). In five South Asian economies (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and India) over 50% of the population remains offline.

The Foundation has expanded its Afghanistan technical training project to include Pakistan and the Maldives. Now known as "Digital Leap South Asia" it is empowering the people of the region to help improve its connectivity.



Switch! – fostering gender diversity in SE Asia tech

Switch! covers Cambodia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Viet Nam.

Participants are women and gender diverse people working in the Internet technical sector who want to improve their professional credentials. They work with a National Coordinator based in each of the participating economies to develop their own Professional Development Plan tailored to their own career goals. As part of that plan, they can select training and mentoring courses from eligible providers. The project is vendor neutral and allows training from over a hundred providers. Costs are covered by the project.

National Coordinators work closely with participants, helping them along the way, and each economy has a National Event for participants to network and learn from each other.





Video: The Switch! Project

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kDuYy1SIr0g

Enabling Meaningful Connectivity via ISIF Asia Fund Across the Asia Pacific



Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia)

As at January 2025, the fund will have supported:

- 166 grants
- 43 awards
- 10 million (USD) to innovative initiatives
- 32 economies

Grants range from large-scale collaborations across multiple organizations and stakeholder groups, through to small scale community projects – All focused in some way on digital development.

Our grants program seeks to empower communities in the Asia Pacific region to research, design and implement Internet-based solutions for their own needs, placing emphasis on the positive role the Internet has in social, economic and human development.

Technology (and the Internet) should be an enabler.

Discover the work of ISIF Asia grantees and awardees.

ISIF Pacific Awards discussion on issues and challenges in the Pacific https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8QgGBt9lr0&t=617s

Similie: IoT Data-Driven Water Management for Climate Resilient Communities





Dulce speaking at IGF 2023

Timor Leste

Technology can enable and influence water resource management policy

Similie's IoT technology was deployed to monitor and compare two rural catchment areas, water supply and localized weather activities, with one involving conservation activities by PERMATIL.

Data collection and IoT monitoring, helps to capture long-term impacts, and influence government policy making, and community action and decision making to further enhance their resilience to climate change.

Our investment in the Pacific

Through these mechanism we have been able to partner with organisations that focus on Internet users having reliable and safe access to the Internet, cultivating communities of practice, and informing policy for an inclusive Internet.

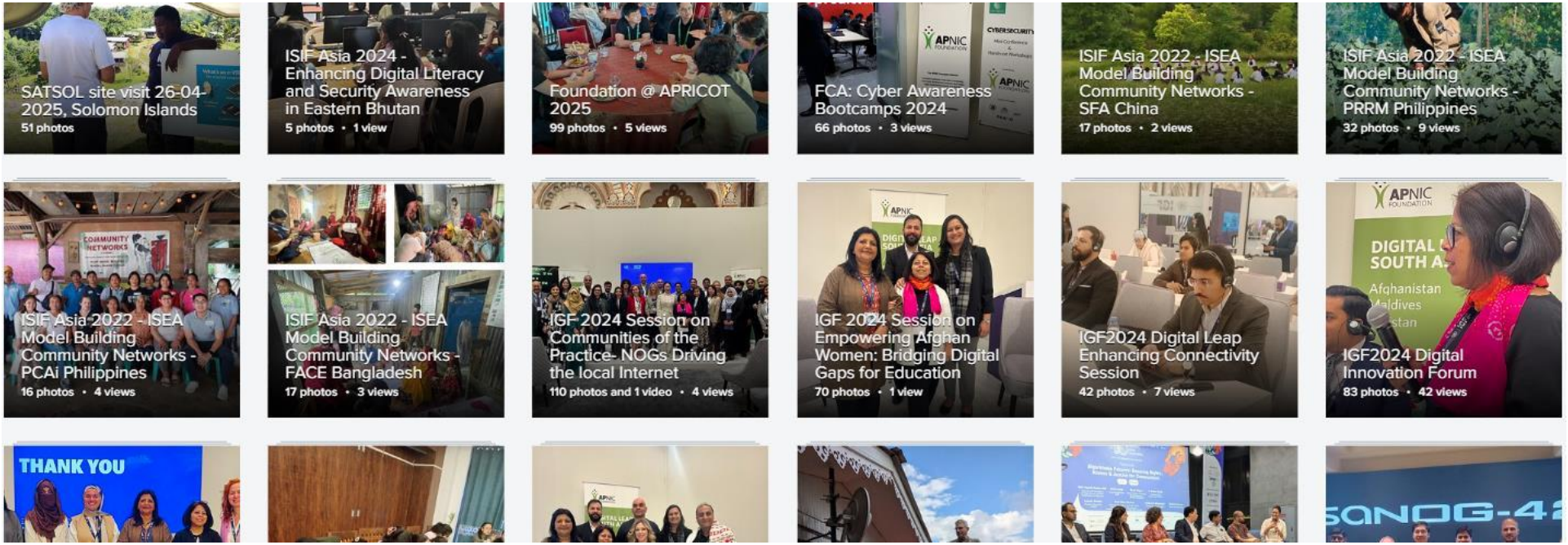
Information Society Innovation Fund (ISIF Asia) Competitive annual grant giving mechanism

Foundation Community Assistance funding mechanism to support activities in the technical community on a discretionary basis. It also looks at leveraging advocacy and outreach opportunities as part of the support to further the Foundation's profile and visibility.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8QgGBt9lr0&t=617s

Creating and supporting agents of change



Our Foundation supports opportunities to amplify the multi-stakeholder views and voices: Conference attendance, participation, speaker diversity, networking and discussions.

Collective efforts towards connectivity in the Pacific



BlueWave

Samoa District Connectivity Project



Boom Inc

Broadband for All - Yap State FSM



SATSOL

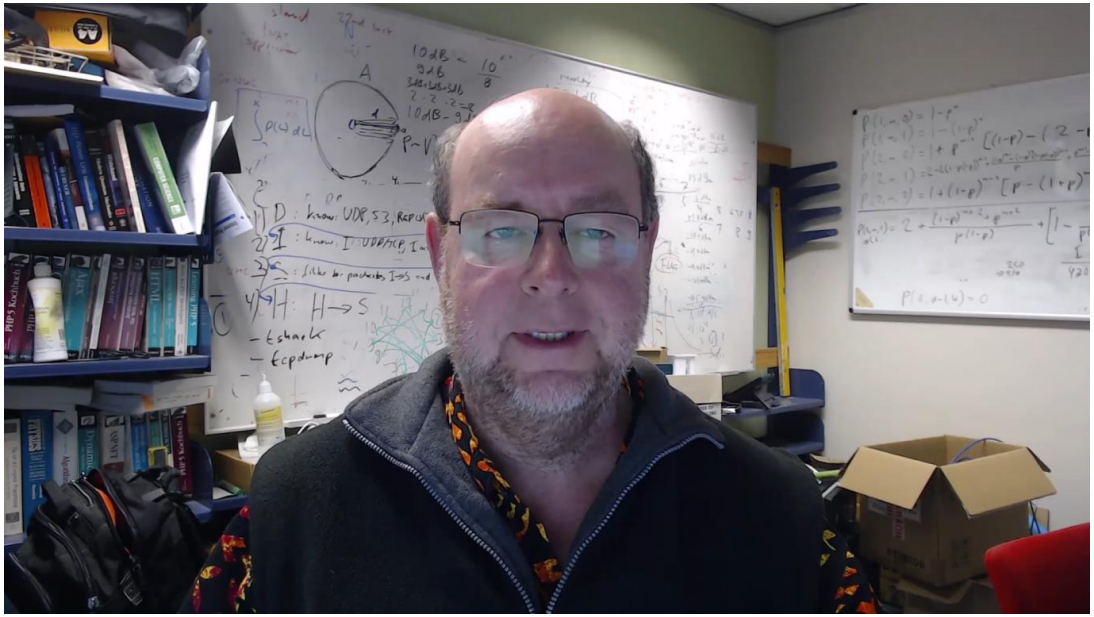
OASIS Data Garden Project



Kacific Broadband Satellites Ltd

Connecting 100 facilities

Power is essential for community networks

















Cook Islands Maori Database

Cook Islands Maori and its various dialects are listed on UNESCO's endangered languages list. There is concern that the language will not survive into the 21st century.



Video: Ano Tisam, Project Lead

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=324Z99Bhf1Y

IPV6 Deployments

- VakaNet Limited (Cook Island)
- Boom! Inc. (Yap Micronesia)
- Tonga Communication Corporation (Tonga)
- SATSOL Ltd. (Solomon Islands)

1. **Addressing Critical IPv4 Exhaustion to Enable Unconstrained Growth**
The proliferation of Internet-enabled mobile devices has pushed the limited IPv4 address space to its breaking point, causing address exhaustion and inefficient routing. Transitioning to IPv6 is not merely an upgrade but a necessity for sustainable growth.

2. **Future-Proofing Infrastructure and Avoiding Escalating Costs**
Delaying IPv6 deployment creates significant financial and operational risks. The additional costs from postponement—such as acquiring scarce IPv4 addresses, maintaining complex systems, and managing dual-stack environments—will ultimately burden organisations through higher fees and reduced service quality.

3. **Driving Innovation and Maintaining Global Interoperability**
IPv6 deployment is the foundational solution for the future of the Internet. By transitioning, it is not just solving a technical limitation but also ensuring its network remains interoperable with the global Internet's evolving standards and capable of supporting future innovation.

Strengthening the Pacific (CERTs)

Under Foundation Community Assistance grants, we are supporting Pacific economies to invest in critical infrastructure and people.

"Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) Asia-Pacific Incident Response Fellowships enable participation from the Pacific.

The initiative was designed to provide participants with the opportunity to engage with each other, learn from leading incident response experts and regional peers, connect with FIRST mentors, and participate in training opportunities."









Video: Lubuw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwzLiCIwjLA

Community LTE in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

The tyranny of distance significantly impacts all aspects of life on remote Islands life.

Of the 47 Micronesian islands identified at the start of the proposal, 37 had no public mobile connectivity, and the remaining 10 have incidental 3G coverage.



Video: TR Mori, Isolutions FSM

Topics highlighted by grantees

- Public locations eg schools, hospitals, key land resources require extensive consultation and approvals with governing bodies or land owners. How to effectively maintain and engage government bodies and advocate
- Incumbent providers can be barriers
- Power supply and sources are critical for connectivity
- Context specific solutions for funding connectivity for sustainability
- Project management skills
- Diversity of the region and pacific
- Challenges for shipping and commuting
- Leveraging with each other for impact
- Many project are ill equipped with connectivity for their own projects and staff to be effective

How can you work with the Foundation?

- The ISIF Asia grants will be open for applications first quarter next year. For notifications, join our mailing list – send an email to apnic-foundation-discuss@apnic.foundation requesting to join.

- Know an organization that wants to work with us? Email us at partnerships@apnic.foundation. We're open to all kinds of partnerships, and the work we do needs funding to scale further

- Follow us on social media, particularly LinkedIn

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Questions, Thank you