

PACIFICCONNECT FORUM

Thursday, 6 September 2018
12:00pm – 5:30pm
NSW Parliament House, Sydney

The digital future of the Pacific and the power of rapidly expanding regional connectivity to transform the economies and livelihoods of our closest neighbours will be the focus of the Pacific Connect Forum on 6 September 2018 in Sydney.

The Pacific is one of the most geographically dispersed regions on the planet, and the delivery of broadband submarine cables opens exciting new prospects to Pacific Island nations whose economic growth has been historically constrained by distance and geography. Improved connectivity will stimulate local businesses, reduce transaction costs, offer access to services and information in remote areas and help address key developmental challenges. It will encourage the emergence of new digital solutions, boost employment and empower transnational collaboration.

The Australian Government is strengthening Australia's engagement in the Pacific and is encouraging the private sector to embrace digital trade. Regional infrastructure developments will allow Australia to expand its relationships with the Pacific, drive greater economic integration and support its continued stability and resilience.

The Pacific Connect Forum, convened by the institute for active policy Global Access Partners (GAP) in association with the International Centre for Democratic Partnerships (ICDP), will allow Pacific and Australian delegates to discuss connectivity as an 'enabler of opportunity' in the Pacific. The event will assemble senior representatives from business, government, academia and the not-for-profit sector for an open and constructive dialogue under the Chatham House rule of non-attribution.

The Forum will highlight the potential of digital technologies to drive sustainable development, create jobs and improve the lives of Pacific Islanders while creating new market opportunities for Pacific and Australian firms. Discussion topics may include, but not limited to:

- **Digital innovations to tackle developmental challenges**
- **The use of blockchain to improve government services**
- **Education and digital literacy**
- **E-commerce**
- **Digital delivery of services**
- **Cyber security**
- **Digital currencies**

Held on the eve of Global Access Partners' 9th Annual Economic Summit on Digital Trade at NSW Parliament House, the Pacific Connect Forum will contribute to its broader dialogue on Australia's digital economy. Findings and recommendations will be summarised in high-level communiqués to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Papua New Guinea in November 2018. The Forum will also offer delegates an opportunity to strengthen their networks by joining **Pacific Connect** - a new government-backed initiative to forge stronger strategic relationships between regional leaders in all sectors.



Australian Government

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

ICDP

International Centre for Democratic Partnerships

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