The Internet and its Impact in Papua New Guinea

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A Vision

“I want that simple cocoa grower up in the remote Lumi in Sandaun Province or Drekitir or Maprik in Sepik Province or the coffee grower in Simbu or Tarito in the highlands to stand in his agricultural block and communicate with the/a buyer in Singapore or Hong Kong and negotiate a value for his agricultural produce even before he picks them for processing.”

Grand Chief Sir Michael Thomas Somare
Internet growth

2003 – PNG is 139th amongst 169 countries in Internet affordability

2008 – Government approved competition
2008 – Digicel Operational as another competitor

2014 – 1GB package ranged from 20-80%

2016 – FB, Twitter, Instagram amongst others are very popular

The general population has accessibility
Vision accomplished

The general population has accessibility.
- Primary School Children have access
- Secondary School Children have access
  - Farmers in the village have access
  - Fisherman on the island has access
  - Mothers in the garden have access
- Professional men/ women have access
Consequence

2003 – NRI Research established PNG 163rd of 169 in internet affordability; Factors include;

1. Wholesale – eg. Telikom pay TPI A$30 for mbps, Then on-sale to ISP A$800
2. Infrastructure – Old and expensive to maintain
3. Regulation – not being firm in policy
4. Retail/ Competition – no control pricing
5. PNG issues – political and social problems
Can the current situation be improved?

1. Infrastructure – Improve
2. Wholesale – Rates must be reduced
3. Regulation – Shore up
4. Retail/ Competition – Reform retailing
5. PNG issues – Encourage competition
Projects to Help

BSP admits internet is vital for e-business.
BSP is looking at Smartphones in the market place too. Without it they can not deliver the next gen products from current SMS.
Projects to Help

NICTA – Improve 2G to 3G/4G network
NICTA in agreement with Digicel, Bmobile-Vodafone, Telikom PNG to reduce the internet cost
   Agreement to set up IXP in the country
NICTA partner with Google/ ISOC to implement local IXP
Regional Results

1. Australia Achieved reduction in internet cost through IXP 16 years ago
2. Vanuatu installed the IXP in 2014 and greatly reduced the internet cost by 250 per cent
Cyber Security

1. Bank of PNG a victim of hacking
   Security risks are known internationally and PNG is no different
   NIST updated guidelines in its risk assessment procedures.

2. NICTA knows that no system is super safe.
Positive Outcome

e-commerce – YuEmBoss PNG Ltd established in 2016
Helping PNGeans become e-entrepreneurs
Over 500 members already.

We are .... growing
    .... Improving
    .... Innovating
We’ll get there!