

On-demand Conference Attendance Award

Post conference report

Application CAA000252019/20 From Mr Jonathan Brewer

Form Submitted 21 Apr 2020, 6:59pm NZST

Conference Report

Conference attended

Pacific Telecommunications Council

This question is read only.

Location of the Conference

Honolulu, Hawaii

Start Date

18/01/2020

Must be a date.

Finish Date

22/01/2020

Must be a date.

What were the highlights and main takeaways of this conference?

My focus in attending PTC was to meet and interact with others working in broadband access for remote and underserved communities, with a focus on the Pacific Islands. I attended 13 formal sessions and a number of social events, including one specific to Pacific Islands telecommunications carriers. Many of these sessions and events were attended by a core group of people with similar interests.

During a poster session for academic researchers, I met Joshua Omoju, a Ghanaian doctoral researcher at Northumbria University working on the issue of passive infrastructure sharing in Sub-Saharan Africa. I was able to introduce him to my colleague Steve Song, who writes a well-regarded annual report on African telecoms infrastructure.

At the ICT4D luncheon I met and had a long discussion on wholesale infrastructure with Richard Then from Sacofa, a Malaysian company that owns mobile towers and fibre assets in Borneo and some Indonesian islands.

In a policy-focussed session I especially enjoyed hearing about remote access from Heather Hudson (University of Alaska, Anchorage), Rob McMahon (University of Alberta), Anis Hamidati (University of Hawaii). We briefly discussed issues of radio spectrum pricing, and in particular noted how Canada's policies are detrimental to small and remote operators.

A community networks session introduced me to entire team who built on the Nation of Hawaii's community LTE network. I found the viewpoints of Pu'uhonua Dennis Kanahale and Brandon Maka'awa'awa on sovereignty and self sufficiency as a motivation for their community network to be compelling and well aligned with the views of some Māori groups working on connectivity for their communities.

What were the favorite sessions, any contacts you made, etc.

What were the lowlights of the conference?

I felt the sessions I attended on satellite and IoT topics were heavy on marketing and light on technical detail. I'd hoped to learn a lot more about OneWeb in particular, and its potential impact on supply of carrier bandwidth into the Pacific Islands. OneWeb may have been short on detail as they were struggling financially, and declared bankruptcy in March.

What would you do differently?

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How will you plan to share your learnings with the New Zealand Internet Community?

I briefly promoted InternetNZ's conference attendance program at the New Zealand Network Operators Group conference in Christchurch in late July 2020, a week after my trip to PTC. With this submission I've included a potential guest post for InternetNZ's blog.

We'd love to see some visual and audio representations of your work. Please share below.

Upload files:

Filename: PTC 20 guest blog post InternetNZ conference.pdf

File size: 32.7 kB

Filename: Technical Report - ISIF ASIA Connected Pacific.pdf

File size: 4.1 MB

and/or

Provide web link:

<https://connectedpacific.org/>

Must be a URL

and/or

Provide additional details:

Please include captions, if relevant

Can we use your media content in our own communications?

Yes No Please contact us first
e.g. in our annual report, social media

Financial Report

*** indicates a required field**

Project Income & Expenditure

Please provide details of any project income (funds received) and project expenditure (funds spent) to date.

Use the 'Notes' column to provide any additional information you think we should be aware of.

Income Description	Income Amount (\$)	Notes
InternetNZ Grant	\$3,500.00	Conference Attendance Grant

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Telco2 Limited	\$2,533.24	Co-funding
Can be grants, donations, personal funds etc.		

Expenditure Description	Expenditure Type	Expenditure Amount (\$)	Notes
AKL-HNL Return Flights	Flights*	\$2,124.00	Paid in NZD
Conference Fee	Conference registration fees	\$1,763.00	1175 USD at 1.5005
Hotel nights	Accommodation	\$1,724.20	Paid in NZD
Local Transport	Other expenditure (add note please)	\$310.90	Taxi & Uber rides including HNL airport transfer via credit card
Additional Meals	Accommodation	\$111.14	Meals not provided by conference via credit card

Income and Expenditure Totals

Total Income Amount	Total Expenditure Amount	Income - Expenditure
\$6,033.24 This number/amount is calculated.	\$6,033.24 This number/amount is calculated.	\$0.00 This number/amount is calculated.

Have you experienced any issues with your intended project budget to date? If so, please explain reasons for any major variances or for providing incomplete information:

Total spend was around what was expected.

Feedback

Feedback

You are almost at the end of our application process. Before **submitting** your application, please take a few moments to provide some feedback.

Please indicate how you found the acquittal process:

Very easy Easy Neutral Difficult Very Difficult

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How many minutes in total did it take you to complete this form?

120

Estimate in minutes (i.e. 1 hour = 60 minutes)

Please provide us with your suggestions about any improvements and/or additions to this form that you think we need to consider:

I think the form is fine as it is.