



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION



Shaping our digital future in Vanuatu

23 to 27 March 2025

Programme



Vanuatu Digital Forum - Policy, Innovation & Partnership
 Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, Port Vila
23rd March 2026
 Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
08:30	Delegates check-in and badging	
	OPENING CEREMONY Welcome, Opening formalities and introductory keynote presentation	
09:30	Introduction Vanuatu Theme Song Prayer	Master of Ceremonies Ms. Andea Aranambat Vanuatu
09:40	Welcome Address	Mr. George Maniuri Director General Ministry of Prime Minister
09:50	Congratulatory Remarks	H.E. Nicolette Brent MBE British High Commissioner to the Republic of Vanuatu
10:00	A reflection on 125 years of Commonwealth connectivity	Ms. Bernadette Lewis Secretary General Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
10:10	Opening Remarks	Hon. Agaseata Tanuvasa Valelio Peto Minister for Communications and Information Technology, Samoa & Chair of the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation
10:20	Cultural Interlude	
10:30	Keynote Address	The Hon. Jotham Napat Prime Minister Government of Vanuatu
	Group Photo	
10:45	Exhibition Tour & Networking Coffee	

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker	Agenda Item	Speaker
Meeting Room 1 - Session 1: Closed-Door Ministerial Session on Vanuatu Digital Transformation A high-level policy dialogue among government leaders focused on accelerating national digital transformation.		Conference Room - Session 2: Challenges & Opportunities in Expanding Connectivity A parallel technical and industry-focused discussion exploring the current connectivity landscape & enabling policy frameworks that influence the reliability of Vanuatu's digital ecosystem.		
Moderator: Mr. John Jack, Director, Department of Communications and Digital Transformation (DCDT)		Moderator: Hanson Waki, Universal Access & Service Coordinator		
11:15	Policy & Regulation	Ms. Alessandra Lustrati Head of Digital Development Foreign Commonwealth Development Office UK Government	Building a Resilient International Connectivity Ecosystem: Lessons from Vanuatu's Subsea Cable Development	Ms. Mathilde Augerd Office Manager Prima Limited
11:30	Cybercrime Legislation and Cross-Border Cooperation	Mrs. Linda Simiki Folaumoetu'i Hon. Attorney General Government of Tonga <i>Virtual</i>	Satellite Opportunities for Inclusive and Resilient Connectivity	Mr. Bipin Solanki Vice President of Sales – Pacific Kacific Broadband Satellites International Ltd
11:45	Strengthening Digital Connectivity & Infrastructure Resilience	Mr. Thomas Bruce - CEO Vodafone Vanuatu Mr. Gary Sue Fong - CEO Digicel Vanuatu	Digital Infrastructure in Tertiary Institutions: Challenges, Gaps, and Opportunities for Vanuatu	Mr. Apisalome Wakatabu Manager ICT Service Vanuatu Institute of Technology
12:00	Unlocking Efficient Public Services Through Robust Digital Public Infrastructure	Hon. Fred Lui SAMUEL Member of Parliament & Special Envoy for ICT		
12:15	Reflections & Questions	Moderator	Reflections & Questions	Moderator

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker	Agenda Item	Speaker
12:30			Networking Luncheon	

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
Session 3: Building Trust in Digital Services This session focuses on strengthening national cybersecurity capabilities, building public trust, and improving digital safety across communities. Moderator: <i>Mr. Brian Winji, Immediate Former Regulator, Vanuatu</i>		
13:30	National Cyber Capacity: Skills, Infrastructure and Community Awareness	Prof. Carsten Rudolph Professor for Cybersecurity Monash University, Australia
13:45	Cybersecurity Resilience in the Digital Age	Dr. Jeffery Garae Cybersecurity Technical Consultant CERT Vanuatu
14:00	Cybersecurity Best Practices for Small States	Mr. Toby Moore Senior Manager – Strategy & Consulting CyberCX <i>Virtual</i>
14:15	Strengthening Digital Trust in the Pacific Through Partnerships	Mrs. Linda Simiki Folaumoetu'i Hon. Attorney General Government of Tonga <i>Virtual</i>
14:30	Reflections & Questions	Moderator
14:45	Networking Coffee Break	
Session 4: Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities, Risks and Practical Paths for Vanuatu Explores how Vanuatu can responsibly adopt AI in public service delivery, governance, workforce development, and community empowerment. Moderator: <i>Mr. Yair Tendler, Managing Director Computer World</i>		
15:00	Building Responsible and Culturally-Aligned AI Governance	Ms Kelly Forbes Executive Director AI Asia Pacific Institute (AIAPI)
15:15	Preparing the Workforce for an AI-Enabled Future	Ms Tayla Jayne Beddoes Co-Founder, WOLFE Founder Pacific Group AI
15:30	Leveraging AI to Transform Government Service Delivery	Mr. Leaso Ronnie Aiolupotea Chief Executive Officer Ministry of Communication & Information Technology Samoa

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
15:45	Community-Driven AI Adoption: Designing Tools That Fit Vanuatu's Culture and Real Needs	Mr. Mathew Temar Consultant WTS Vanuatu
16:00	Reflections & Questions	Moderator
16:15	Summary & Key Take Aways	Master of Ceremonies
16:30	End of Day 1	
17:00	Opening Reception	

Digital Development Workshops
Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, Port Vila
24th March 2026
Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
09:00 – 11:00 Session 1: Internet Governance		
Covers core internet governance components including number resources, regional capacity-building, DNS evolution and policy principles for an open, secure, trusted internet. The session strengthens Pacific stewardship of internet infrastructure and standards.		
<i>Facilitator: Bevil Wooding, Director of Caribbean Affairs, ARIN</i>		
09:00	Opening and Introduction	
09:05	Keynote Address: Hon. Fred Lui SAMUEL, Member of Parliament & Special Envoy for ICT	
09:15	Internet Number Resources & Regional Stewardship	Mr. Srinivas (Sunny) Chendi Strategic Relations Senior Advisor APNIC Virtual
09:25	Strengthening Pacific Internet Governance Capacity	Ms. Noelle Francesca de Guzman, Senior Director Regional Affairs & Engagement – APAC at Internet Society Virtual
09:35	DNS Evolution & Opportunities for the Pacific	Mr. Save Vocea VP, Stakeholder Engagement - Oceania ICANN

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
09:45	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Andrew Molivurae - Officer in Charge of ICT and Internet Governance Telecommunications Radio Broadcasting Regulator 2. Ms. Doreen Leona - Consultant, Palladium International Pty Ltd 3. Ms. Dalsie Baniala – Consultant, Welchman Keen 	
10:30	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
11:00	Networking Coffee Break	
11:20 – 12:30 Session 2: Panel Discussion on Digital Financial Inclusion This session Brings together banks, mobile operators, and regulators to discuss how Vanuatu can expand access to digital financial services. Focus areas include payments, financial literacy, interoperability, and ensuring secure, affordable access for underserved groups. <i>Facilitator: Mr. Mohammed Asad-ur-rahman Nile, Country Coordinator, UNCDF Vanuatu</i>		
11:20	Opening & Session Overview	
11:25	Keynote Address: Mr. Branen Garae , Commissioner, Vanuatu Financial Services	
11:35	Panellists: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Samuel Pakoa, Payments Manager, Bank of South Pacific Vanuatu 2. The National Bank of Vanuatu 3. Bred Bank 4. Mrs Senily Jacquier, Chief Commercial Officer Vodafone Vanuatu 5. Mr. Gary Sue Fong, Chief Executive Officer, Digicel Vanuatu 	
12:15	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
12:30	Networking Lunch Break	
13:30 – 15:00 Session 3: ICT for SMEs Explores how digital tools and regional initiatives can enhance SME competitiveness. Speakers cover e-commerce development, women's economic empowerment, ecosystem-building and digital skills that help local businesses grow and innovate. <i>Facilitator: Andrea Ibba, Pacific E-commerce Coordinator, Pacific Islands Forum</i>		
13:30	Opening & Introduction	
13:35	Increasing ICT uptake among SMEs across urban, rural and outer island communities	Ms. Irene Abbock Founder and CEO Tidy Haus Cleaning Services
13:50	National E-Commerce Strategy & the integration of SMEs within the digital economy	Ms. Francisca Miller , Senior e-Commerce Officer Vanuatu Aid for Trade Management Unit Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
14:05	Building the Local Business Ecosystem in Vanuatu	Mr. Marc Antoine Morel President V-Lab, Vanuatu
14:20	Digital Skills Development for the Competitive Edge	Mr. Cameron Craig Board Member Innovation and Digital Economy Association (IDEA), Vanuatu
14:35	Reflections and Questions	Facilitator
15:00	Networking Coffee Break	
<p>15:30 – 17:00 Session 4: Panel Discussion on ICT for Health A multi-stakeholder discussion on how digital technologies can improve healthcare delivery, emergency response, and community health initiatives. Focus on digital health hubs, NGO collaboration, and leveraging ICT for more resilient health systems.</p> <p><i>Facilitator: Mr. Richard Wall, Chief Technology Officer, Caribbean Agency for Justice Solutions</i></p>		
15:30	Opening & Session Overview	
15:35	Keynote Address: Dr. Posikai Samuel Tapo , Director for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Health	
15:45	Presentation on Community Digital Health Hub: Dr Appolinaire C. Etoundi , Senior Lecturer in Mechatronics and Researcher in Rehabilitation Robotics, University of West England <i>Virtual</i>	
16:00	Panellists: 1. Mr. Dickenson Tevi , Secretary General, Vanuatu Red Cross Society 2. Vanuatu World Vision	
16:45	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
17:00	End of Day 2	

Digital Development Workshops
 Warwick Le Lagon Resort & Spa, Port Vila
25th March 2026
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Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
09:00 – 11:00 Session 1: Connectivity Roundtable		
A comprehensive discussion on the state of national connectivity, cybersecurity readiness, satellite solutions, digital inclusion initiatives, and next-generation network resilience. The session brings government, operators, and partners together to identify coordinated priorities.		
<i>Facilitator: Mr. Andrew Molivurae, Officer in Charge of ICT and Internet Governance, Telecommunications Radiocommunications and Broadcasting Regulator</i>		
09:00	Opening & Session Overview	
09:05	Keynote Address: Ms. Bernadette Lewis , Secretary General CTO	
09:15	State of Connectivity in Vanuatu	Mr. John Jack , Director Department of Communications & Digital Transformation (DCDT)
09:25	Building Cyber-Resilient Connectivity as Vanuatu Expands Nationwide Digital Access	Prof. Carsten Rudolph Professor for Cybersecurity Monash University, Australia
09:45	Practical Strategies for Driving Digital Inclusion	Mr. Gary Sue Fong Chief Executive Officer Digicel Vanuatu
09:55	Building a Resilient, Redundant, and Future-Ready Network for a Digital Vanuatu	Mr. Everett Whippy Chief Technology Officer Vodafone Vanuatu
10:05	Last Mile Connectivity Challenges	Mr. Alfre George IP/IT Team leader WANTOK
10:15	Policy Considerations and Global Perspectives on Building a Resilient, Inclusive Digital Ecosystem	Ms. Alessandra Lustrati Head of Digital Development Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office UK Government
10:25	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
10:45	Networking Coffee Break	

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
11:20 – 12:30 Session 2: Panel Discussion on Early Warning Systems Showcases practical early-warning technologies and community-based approaches to disaster preparedness. Demonstrations and panel insights highlight how mobile operators, NGOs, and climate-focused organisations can strengthen national resilience. <i>Facilitator: Mr. Luke Daunivalu, Pacific Affairs Advisor, Caribbean Agency for Justice Solution</i>		
11:20	Keynote Address: Mr. Abraham Nasak, Director, Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office	
11:30	Demonstration by Mr. Akhenaton Laborde , Tech Consultant, CTO	
11:40	Panellists: 1. Mr. Dickenson Tevi , Secretary General, Vanuatu Red Cross Society 2. CDAC Network Limited 3. Vanuatu Green Energy Transformation Project, UNDP Climate Change Adaptation 4. Vunausi Environmental Conservation Organization - VECO 5. Vanuatu Oxfam	
12:15	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
12:30	Networking Lunch Break	
	End of Day 3	

Digital Development Workshops
 Emua Community Visit (*Council Administration Office*)
26th March 2026
 Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
11:00 – 13:00 Community Visit & Exhibition A visit to North Efate Area Council in Emua to engage with local communities and stakeholders. A community engagement session showcasing e-government services, sector-specific digital tools, and private-sector innovations. Participants get hands-on exposure to how digital solutions improve everyday life and expand opportunities in a modern digital society. Facilitators: <i>Frazer Tovovur - Area Administrator</i>		
11:00	Opening Formalities: <i>Local Community Leaders</i> Keynote Address: <i>Digicel Vanuatu</i>	
11:30	Speakers: 1. Bred Bank 2. ANZ Bank 3. Bank of South Pacific Vanuatu 4. The National Bank of Vanuatu	
10:30	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
11:30	Tour of Exhibition & Community Engagement	
13:00	Networking Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:00 Panel Discussion on ICT for PWDs Dedicated to digital inclusion for people with disabilities. Speaker will discuss accessible digital health, assistive technologies, and community-led initiatives to ensure equal access to digital services and education. Facilitator: <i>Mr. Elison Bovu, Director, Vanuatu Society for People with Disabilities</i>		
14:00	Virtual presentation on Community Digital Health Hub: Dr Appolinaire C. Etoundi , Senior Lecturer in Mechatronics and Researcher in Rehabilitation Robotics, University of West England	
14:15	Speakers: 1. Mr. Dickenson Tevi , Secretary General, Vanuatu Red Cross Society 2. Dr. Posikai Samuel Tapo , Director for Policy and Planning, Ministry of Health 3. Vanuatu Women's Centre	
14:45	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
15:00	End of Day 4	

Digital Development Workshops

Mele Community Hall

27th March 2026

Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Speaker
09:00 – 13:00 Session 1: E-learning tools for teachers and students		
A hands-on demonstration session where schools and tertiary institutions showcase digital learning tools, platforms, and teaching innovations. Focuses on strengthening education delivery through practical ICT adoption.		
<i>Facilitator: Ministry of Education</i>		
10:00	Opening Formalities: <i>Local Community Leaders</i>	
	Keynote Address: <i>Vodafone Vanuatu</i>	
11:00	Demos by:	
	1. Two Primary Schools	
	2. Two Secondary Schools	
	3. Vanuatu Institute of Technology	
	4. Vanuatu National University	
5. University of the South Pacific		
12:30	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
Tour of Exhibition & Community Engagement		
13:00	Networking Lunch Break	
14:00 – 15:00 Session 2: Panel Discussion on Online Safety		
A multi-stakeholder conversation on keeping communities, especially youth, safe online. Covers cyber awareness, safe digital habits, content risks, and the role of schools, government, and ICT partners in promoting a secure online environment.		
<i>Facilitator: Dr. Jeffery Garae, Cybersecurity Technical Consultant, CERT Vanuatu</i>		
14:00	Panellists:	
	1. Mr. Apisalome Wakatabu, Manager ICT Service, Vanuatu Institute of Technology	
	2. Mr. Thomas Bruce, CEO, Vodafone Vanuatu	
	3. Mr. Yair Tendler, Managing Director, Computer World	
15:00	Reflections & Questions	Facilitator
15:30	Summary & Closing	
<i>Return to Port Vila</i>		
18:30	Closing Dinner Reception (venue TBC)	
End of Day 5		

