Speakers at the PITA Strategy Forum, 21-22 October, 2019; in the order of Speakers schedule in the Program.

George Samisoni
CEO, FINTEL

George Samisoni is the President of the Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association (PITA). George was a member of the PITA Executive Committee prior to be elected to this position in April 2019.

George is also the Chief Executive Officer of the Fiji International Telecommunications Pte Ltd (FINTEL), Fiji's international telecommunications gateway operator, with over 20 years' experience in submarine cable and satellite system operations and commercial management.

Ms Deborah Weiss
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of
Communications
FIJI

Ms Weiss has over 30 years' experience working in communications and information technology, held multiple executive and senior IT management roles across multiple technology disciplines, in many industries such as defence, utilities, transport, emergency services, state government and IT service providers. Most recent roles have been Chief Information Officer at Victorian Ombudsman leading the Digital Transformation Strategy and the day-to-day planning and operation of the IT, Cybersecurity and Information Managements services for the Victorian Ombudsman. Prior to that I was at Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) - as both Chief Operations Officer and Chief Information Officer. Experience include working for the following organisations Dimension Data (a NTT company): as Client Delivery Executive, 2 years, VicTrack: as Chief Technology Officer – Telecommunications, 3 years; ITSS (Worksafe and TAC): as Manager, Strategy, Planning and Architecture, 1 Year; Gartner (and Meta Group): as Research Director Business of IT, 5 years; Getronics: as Program Director, Australia and New Zealand, 1 year; United Energy: as Manager, IT Architecture and Strategy, 2 years and at the Australian Defense Force: as Australian Regular Army Officer - Royal Australian Corps of Signals, 12 years. Ms Weiss has a Bachelor of Professional Studies, from the University of New England, and a Masters of Commerce, from the University of New South Wales

---

Ashish Narayan
Program Coordinator
ITU Regional Office APAC

Mr. Ashish Narayan is Programme Coordinator in the ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. His work primarily involves implementing human capacity building initiatives undertaken by ITU in the region and is presently the coordinator for the ITU Asia Pacific Centres of Excellence Network. He has been actively involved with policy, regulatory and training assignments under ITU's programs in Asia-Pacific countries. Prior to the ITU, Mr. Narayan worked as Deputy Advisor in the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. During his tenure in the TRAI, he worked on key telecom sector reform issues. He began his career with the Tata Telecom, an equipment manufacturer, before moving to the Indian Government Service. He has also worked with the Indian public service broadcaster in the area of broadcast engineering. Mr. Narayan holds an MBA Degree in International Business and a Bachelor's Degree in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering.

Phillip Henderson
CEO
Bluesky Cook Islands

Phill has a wealth of Telecoms experience in the Pacific region having held senior leadership positions in the technology and telecommunications industry over several decades.

His experience includes 15 years as General Manager, with Telecom Cook Islands Limited from 1991 to 2005. Prior to that he worked for 10 years with Cable and Wireless (Cook Islands), which is where he began his career in telecommunications as an Engineer technician in Satellite Network operations. For 10 years prior to 2015, Henderson has held positions with increasing responsibility in Program Management, Technology sales and Delivery with Alcatel-Lucent/Nokia in New Zealand culminating as the Customer Delivery Leader for the Pacific Islands for the full portfolio of Alcatel-Lucent/Nokia products. In late 2015 he returned to take up the Country Manager role with Bluesky Cook Islands.

Sami Tabbane
Professor Ecole Superieure des Communicatiosn des Tunis

Sami Tabbane is professor at Ecole Supérieure des Communications de Tunis since 1994. Graduated from Ecole des Mines de Paris engineering school, he has obtained a PhD in Computer science and Networks from Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications (ENST) of Paris in 1991. From 1992 to 1994, he was engineer at (CNET), France Télécom R&D research center.

He is the co-author of " Les réseaux GSM/DCS " (Hermès 1996) and author of " Réseaux Mobiles " (Hermès 1997), " Handbook of mobile communications networks " (Artech House 1999), « Ingénierie des réseaux cellulaires » (Hermès 2004), co-author of « Ingénierie des systèmes de télécommunications » (Hermès 2005), of « Pratique de l'ingénierie des réseaux cellulaires » (Hermès-Lavoisier, 2006) and of « Réseaux 4G » (Hermès-Lavoisier, 2008). He is IEEE senior member and undertakes missions for companies and international organizations such as IT

Chong Wai Cheong
Huawei Technologies

Chong Wai Cheong is the Senior Solution Manager, at the Wireless Network & Cloud Core Division for Huawei Technologies. Wai Cheong has more than 15 years of telecommunication industry experience, specializing in mobile network architecture and solution design. Working as a wireless solution and marketing manager for Huawei, he has been actively engaged to support operators in developing mobile network strategies and managing technology roadmap/lifecycles. He also works to promote the use of LTE/5G wireless technologies for new business areas within the Southern Pacific region.

Andy Shi
Alibaba

Mr. Zheng (Andy) Shi joined Alibaba Cloud in 2017 as key account executive and is responsible for managing clients across different industry supporting them with GTM strategy, market awareness and growth strategies in ANZ and SP regions.

Prior to his role at Alibaba Cloud, Andy held various management positions at Huawei Australia most recently as an account director responsible for the resources and transport industry

Andrew Kumar
Regional Chief Technology Officer Vodafone Fiji

Andrew has been involved in various technical leadership roles from Manager Core Data Networks, Project Manager, Strategy and Planning and Chief Technology Officer for Vodafone Fiji since 2003. Recently this year, he has taken on the role of Regional Chief Technology Officer, a member of the Group Executive Management team and is responsible for driving forward new digital technical capabilities and network agilities of Vodafone Fiji, and in overseeing the same with the Group of ATH/Bluesky Companies managed by Vodafone Fiji, to meet and exceed the Group service goals, as well as its strategic and business development goals.

Aubry Dodd
Head of Digital & Channel Management
ANZ Bank

Aubry Dodd is Head of Digital and Channel Management in the Pacific – a region which encompasses 10 countries being Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, Cook Islands Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Timor-Leste with Guam and American Samoa being the American Territories. Aubry has attained extensive, in-depth, knowledge and experience in the New Zealand and Pacific Retail Banking and Financial Services Industries throughout his 37-year career as a Retail Banker. He held a number of senior positions within major New Zealand Banks prior to transitioning to ANZ in the Pacific. During the past eleven years, Aubry has enjoyed the challenge afforded by his appointment to the roles of Head of Retail Solomon Islands, Head of Retail Papua New Guinea and Head of Direct Banking and Mobile Phone Banking Papua New Guinea.
Aubry assumed his current role as Head of Digital and Channel Management - Pacific Retail in February 2013 and is committed to the delivery of world-class service to ANZ customers through ANZ Direct Banking Channels.

Elenoa Buliruarua
Manager Financial Inclusion
ANZ Bank

Elenoa has 17-years' experience within Retail banking in Fiji. Her roles have encompassed Retail Branch banking, sales, product and relationship management. Elenoa has a strong track record in driving change towards financial literacy in Fiji, coaching and empowering communities and leading strategic partner relationships. Elenoa was instrumental to the recent and successful launch of the Fiji Money Minded Impact Report, an independent survey done by the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT). Elenoa is also a former national basketball Under 21 representative, a national representative and a Fiji National Women's Basketball Assistant Coach to the Pacific games in 2015 where Fiji won Gold. She enjoys playing sports, listening to music, watching television series.

Yi Zhou
E-Govt & Smart City Expert,
Huawei Technologies

Mr.Zhou advocates a ICT integrated approach for government to sustainable development goals of smart society through the opportunities brought by digital transformation.

Prior to joining Huawei, Mr.Zhou spent more than 14 years in the ERP software (including 10 years as a R&D Director and Chief Medical Consultant in Kingdee Software Group-Biggest local ERP company) , For next 6 years He was a Solution Director in a ranking top 100 high-tech enterprise of military-civilian integration field. He used to be a partner of Allpku management consulting group-biggest local consulting company. Mr.Zhou was awarded the Shenzhen Senior Reserve Talent Award in 2009. He is also an APICS member and National military- civilian integration expert. Mr.Zhou has rich global ICT project practice experiences for more than 400 Smart City, Smart Government and Smart Industry to provide consulting and implementation. His familiar technology fields include Data Center infrastructure, Cloud computing, Big data management and analysis, Artificial Intelligence, IaaS, PaaS, SaaS, BaaS, Internet of Things. His familiar business fields include financial technology, e-government, smart city, smart manufacturing, Industrial Internet, digital marketing, mobile applications, agile supply chains, mobile e-commerce, Internet +

Mathew Swinbourne
CTO, Cloud Architecture
NetApp

Matt Swinbourne is the CTO, Cloud Architecture for NetApp in Asia Pacific and Japan. In this role he is responsible for managing the technical go-to-market, product development liaison and promotion of NetApp solutions for Public, Private, Hybrid and Multi-cloud at various industry events. He leads a cross-functional technical pre-sales and solution architect team across the region who specialize in the NetApp Cloud Solutions portfolio. During his 7 years at NetApp, Matt has been instrumental in the transformation efforts at NetApp, by developing and fostering digital technology concepts and capabilities such as DevOps, Public Cloud, Automation and Analytics, both inside the business and for our customers and partners. Matt has over 20 years of experience in the IT industry and has held numerous roles ranging from systems administration and architecture in the public sector through to building an integration business in the private sector supporting customers across a wide range of verticals. Matt has a broad range of experience covering many aspects of IT, including application development, virtualization, containerization, continuous integration and deployment architectures, data analytics and hybrid multi-cloud solutions. Matt started his career in electrical engineering and maintains his interest in electronics projects especially microcontroller and IoT technology. In his spare time Matt is a keen aviator with a particular interest in classic aircraft having flown planes for most of his adult life.

Rakin Wahed
Youth Entrepreneur

Rakin is a young entrepreneur, a student motivated to create new innovative ways to modify efficient e-commerce platforms. He is one of the runners up at a SDG/UNDP Total Startupper of the Year program for his work on Pasifika Heartbeat, a Health Care mobile app, providing new innovative way for greater inclusions in Health care and telemedicine. As part of his winning innovation, he received grant to commence this project.

Rakin is twenty years old and is currently a student at the University of the South Pacific completing his Degree in Commerce.

Andreas Hipp
Founder & Group CEO
Cataleya

Andreas was the Founder and Group CEO of Epsilon Global Communications, which includes Epsilon service provider and Cataleya technology businesses. During his 18 years in the global telecoms community he has contributed to the evolution of the international markets and technologies, creating innovative businesses, and disruptive business models. He loves technology but people even more and what technology can or must do for them. He is now continuing to support the industry's evolution through his start-up enabler Incipio, acting as Chairman and CEO of Telecom Technology vendor Cataleya and his position on the board of Cirrus Core Networks, which offers an all NFV- based LTE Core Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) proposition for Mobile Network Operators.

Andreas' primary expertise is in deploying disruptive business propositions and technologies, start-ups and on inspiring innovation in network virtualization, cloud and data & analytics. He also has a strong background and passion for people, culture and organization behavioral evolutions, which are now crucial to all operators' survival and success.

Matteo Catanuto
Director NZ Pacific
Kacific Broadband Satellites

Matteo is a senior telecommunications sales professional who joins Kacific following his role at Digicel Samoa as Sales Director. Prior to that he held high-level sales and business development roles working for TelstraClear, Orcon, Spark Digital, and Digital Mobile (part of the Vodafone New Zealand Group). He has extensive experience in New Zealand and the Pacific in areas. In his role with Kacific he will be responsible for establishing service provider networks and distribution channels in New Zealand, American Samoa, Samoa, Tonga, Niue and the Cook Islands for the company's range of satellite broadband products and services leading up to the launch of Kacific-1 in 2019. Matteo holds a MSc from Liceo Scientifico, Milan and reports to the Kacific's Chief Commercial Officer.

Mr. Simon Wu is head of Solution Architect Alibaba Cloud ANZ

Mr. Simon Wu is head of Solution Architect for Alibaba Cloud ANZ and was one of the first few members joining Alibaba Cloud international team on 2015.

He started in Alibaba Cloud Singapore region and relocated to Australia in 2016. Shiwei has extensive experience in cloud solution design as well as comprehensive knowledge of big data and AI.

Neill Swart Chief Commercial Officer VAS-X

Neill Swart has a diploma in Electrical Engineering and has been in the telecommunications industry since starting his career with Siemens Telecommunications in 1988. Neill spent 22 years with Siemens where he was mainly involved in operational environments. Since inception of GSM in South Africa, Neill was responsible for implementation of core switching systems, Prepaid Intelligent Networks and Radio Access Networks deployed by Siemens in Africa and the Middle East. Neill also program managed the first LTE trial in Africa where Nokia Siemens Networks demonstrated the capabilities of the technology to one of their South African based clients.

In 2010 Neill moved to specialist microwave vendor Aviat Networks to manage the Project Management Team for microwave deployments in Africa and the Middle East. He received his Project Management Professional certification in 2011, and eventually managed the Global Project Management Office for Aviat Networks. Neill joined VAS-X Pty (Ltd) in March 2013, as Chief Operating Officer, to manage the operations of the company based in South Africa, and moved to Australia in January 2019 where he serves as the Chief Commercial Officer for the VAS-X Group.

Richard Giuliano Strategic Advisor VAS-X

Richard Giuliano is an independent consultant currently working with VAS-X as a Strategic Advisor. He has 30years sales & marketing experience working mostly in the telecommunications sector. He worked with Telstra for 15 years and during that time he launched BigPond Cable (Australia's first residential broadband service) and as a Product Manager he designed and launched Virtual Telco services to the Australian market. He has in-depth knowledge of OSS/BSS solutions and in last 8 years has participated in numerous PITA events and has worked closely with a number of PITA members. Richard has a business degree with majors in Marketing and International Marketing.

Cedric Mauvielle
PCCW Global

Cédric joined PCCW Global in 2015. Prior to head Voice and GIS sales in Asia, he was responsible at the headquarter for the product marketing and strategy, with a focus on mobility solutions and working closely with the Voice team.

He has been based in Asia since 2006 and holds a wealth of industry experience, especially the mobile ecosystem, having worked for companies such as US-based Comverse and Syniverse, as well as Sweden's Telia.

Cédric began a career in telecommunications at Bouygues Telecom in France in 1998, soon after which he worked on a number of cutting-edge Voice-over-IP projects.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Network and Telecom, as well as a Master's degree, majoring in Network and Telecom, from the University of Technology of Troyes (UTT) in France.

Matt Kennedy
Senior Technology
Consultant

Matt is the Senior Technology Consultant for DGIT Systems in the New Zealand and Pacific markets, operating out of DGIT's Auckland office.

Matt has 23 years' experience in Telecommunications, Networking and Logistics with project experience in Europe, Asia and the Pacific.

His career has been wide and varied – starting with Radio Frequency Engineering, before moving onto Fixed Network OSS, 3G Network rollouts, and more recently GPON Fibre systems for New Zealand's UFB deployment

---

Eric Yip
Country Director Oceania
China Mobile International

Mr. Eric Yip, Country Director Oceania, China Mobile International, born in Hong Kong and now residing in Sydney, Australia.

Eric brings over 20 years of experience in the global telecommunication's industry, having previously held roles in well-known US Carrier's such as Level 3 Communications, more recently Eric was the Regional Director (Oceania) for PCCW Global. Today, Eric leads a highly skilled team of telecommunication professionals out of China Mobile International's Sydney office, with his direct reports focusing on Enterprise, Government, MNO/MVNO & Carrier."

Marko Merenheimo
Senior Manager

Hexatronic New Zealand Limited is part of the Hexatronic Global Group which core competencies are optical fibre and layer one network connectivity. Hexatronic New Zealand is the most experienced solution provider of all Air Blown Fibre (ABF) ducting products and solutions in New Zealand.

Marko Merenheimo has over 30-year experience of copper and fibre networks as well as the transmission in the air interface. Marko is part of Hexatronic management team, and he is responsible for technologies and quality in the company. Before joining Hexatronic he has been working in several positions at Nokia and Panduit.

Anisi Penitusi
Chief Operating Officer
Tuvalu Telecommunications
Corporation

Dennis Jerram
Business Development
Manager Asia Pacific
Viasat

Dennis is responsible for building Viasat's business regionally across the Commercial markets in the Asia Pacific Region, as well as working with potential business partners in preparation for the launch of the ViaSat-3 satellite platform in the region.

Dennis has 30 years' experience working in the Satellite Communications industry as a Field Engineer with Scientific Atlanta and Senior Management at Viasat Australia. During Dennis's tenure as the GM for Viasat Australia, Dennis worked on the NBN Skymuster project during the bidding phase and the construction of the ground infrastructure.

Dennis graduated as a Senior Technical Officer with qualifications in Satellite Field Engineering covering all aspects of satellite ground station technology. Dennis has lived and worked in over 15 Countries including Australia, SE Asia, Pacific Islands, Africa, South America and the Middle East.

Roy Wittert
Regional Director
Cambium Networks

Roy Wittert has 30+ years' experience in the IT and Communications industry included distribution, channel development and sales management, carrier sales, managed services and video conferencing. At Cambium Networks, Roy is responsible for the evangelism of Fixed Wireless and WiFi in region. Cambium Networks, is focused providing data communications solutions using RF technology for "Connecting the Unconnected". Applications for fixed wireless and WiFi include providing infrastructure for Wireless ISPs (WiSPs) to provide broadband services to underserved areas, high capacity leased line replacement, Smart City WiFi and CCTV backhaul and connectivity solutions for Industrial IoT including CCTV, narrow band IoT and ITS

He holds a degree in Electrical Engineering and a Post Graduate Diploma in Industrial Engineering from the University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg South Africa. Roy also completed a Certificate in Marketing and Industrial Marketing and an Executive Development Program from the same University.

Alan Cheng
SES

Alan has over 18 years' experience working in the Telecommunications and ICT Industry in Australia and the Pacific region. In SES Networks, he looks after the Pacific Region and is based in Adelaide, Australia.

Shivnesh Prasad
Digital development
Specialist
World Bank

Shivnesh Roynendra Prasad has recently joined the World Bank Group's Digital Development team as a Digital Development Specialist. Shivnesh has over 15 years of experience in the public sector in Fiji during which he held the office for the Director for Communications at the Fijian Ministry of Communications, as well as Acted as the Chairman of the Telecommunications Authority of Fiji. He has overseen various important initiatives for Government, amongst which was the establishment of Fiji's first terrestrial digital television platform, the design and build of the county's first domestic submarine fiber spur and the band planning, auction and licensing for 4GLTE spectrum.

During his term with the Government, Shivnesh held numerous positions in various regional telecommunications organizations and has extensive experience of working with the telecommunications regulators and policy makers in the Asia Pacific region.

He is an alumnus of the University of the South Pacific where he attained his Master of Commerce Degree . He further holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Sustainable Development Practices Public Policy from the Energy and Resource Institute University (India). Shivnesh' s current work programme focus on digital platforms across the Pacific.

Nilesh K. Singh,
Regional Manager (APAC)
Polar Power

Nilesh has over 23 years of engineering and business development experience in Telecommunication power system. He is responsible for applications sales engineering in APAC region. Prior to joining Polar Power, Nilesh was an Engineering and Business Development Manager at Complete Power Solutions responsible for designing and sales of full turnkey telecommunication power system for various telecom network operators in APAC region. Over the years, Nilesh has gained vast experience in telecommunication power systems working as an application engineer for Eaton, Invensys Energy Systems and Eltek. His career started with Telecom Fiji limited where he worked as a Telepower Planning and Design Engineer. Mr. Nilesh has a dual major bachelor's degree in Physics and Electrical engineering, MBA in Technology Management, Advance diploma in Renewable Energy and NSW Electricians certificate (License).

Hlekiwe Kachali
ETC Coordinator
UNWFP Pacific Office

Hlekiwe has close to 20 years' experience in the telecommunications sector, working with standardisation, design and deployment for 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G, NFV and IoT. Hlekiwe's experience includes work with emergency telecommunications in disaster contexts.

Hlekiwe is currently the ETC/ICT Coordinator for the Pacific.

Hlekiwe has a BEng in Computer Engineering (Telecommunications major), a MEng in Systems Engineering and a doctorate in Systems/Civil Engineering with a specialisation in disaster recovery and resilience. Hlekiwe's other research work is in tracking and tracing in conflict zones, conflict dynamics and information management in emergencies.

Kevin Redmond
Network IQ Manager,
Maser Technology Group

Kevin is a seasoned Telecoms professional of over 30 years who has provided solutions to telecommunications providers worldwide. Being passionate about technology and having extensive knowledge of both mobile and fixed networks, Kevin has headed the Maser NetworkIQ (Analytics) team for the last 7 years. Alongside his team at Maser, Kevin continues to help telecommunication providers across Australia, NZ and the Pacific Islands resolve issues related to bandwidth management, end user QoE and increased revenue.