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Study of Communication Accessibility in Pacific Islands

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In WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) from 10 to 12 December 2003 in Geneva, it was declare that "Our common desire and commitment to build a people-centered, inclusive and development to oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals, communities and peoples to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life." In order to comply the declaration in WSIS, ITU (International Telecommunication Union) advocated to use DAI (Digital Access Index) for evaluating communication accessibility, where a selection of indicators compiled into an index gives a better overview than any singly indicator. The DAI measures the overall ability of individuals in a country to access and use new ICTs (Information Communication Technologies). The DAI is built around four fundamental vectors that impact a country's ability to access ICTs: infrastructure, affordability, knowledge and quality and actual usage of ICTs. The DAI has been calculated for 181 economies where European countries were among the highest ranked. The DAI allows countries to see how they compare to peers and their relative strengths and weaknesses. The DAI also provides a transparent and globally measurable way of tracking progress towards improving access to ICTs. This paper intends to specifically study the communication accessibility in Pacific Islands, with introducing the DAI, and using the DAI for evaluating communication accessibility in Pacific Islands with comparing to major countries, and to propose how enhancing the communication accessibility in Pacific Islands in view of the DAI.

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