

E - NEWSLETTER

APAC ISLAND NATIONS

Edition 2

GSMA Online Sessions - Highlight

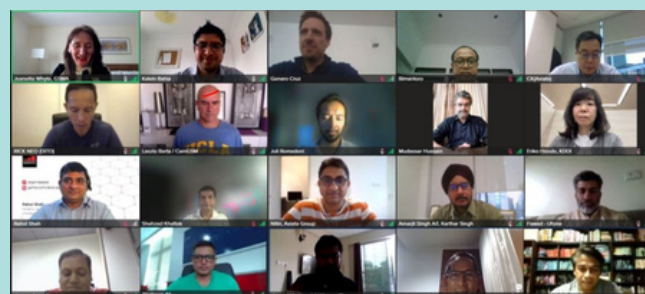
DIGITAL ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION VIA A SUSTAINABLE MOBILE INDUSTRY: GSMA CONTRIBUTES TO THE PITA BUSINESS AND EXPOSITION FORUM ON 13-15 APRIL 2021

GSMA participated in the PITA Business and Exposition Forum 2021, speaking on a range of topics, such as digital security, policy and regulatory development, and opportunities in the new reality to progress towards a digital society. Click [here](#) to learn more about GSMA's contribution to the forum.



APAC 5G INDUSTRY FORUM: 5G INSPIRING NEW VALUES, ACCELERATE INDUSTRY 4.0 – POWERED BY GSMA AND HUAWEI ON 20 MAY 2021

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated digital transformation across the globe and shown the importance of Industry 4.0 for manufacturers, healthcare, and the transport and logistics supply chain sector. To learn more about how flexible solutions provided by 5G connectivity and intelligent edge unlock new commercial opportunities for the Asia Pacific region, click [here](#) to access the recording.



GSMA APAC POLICY GROUP: MOBILE CONNECTIVITY INDEX WEBINAR

43 participants from the GSMA APAC Policy Group, representing MNOs across the Asia Pacific region, attended the webinar to learn about the GSMA Mobile Connectivity Index and how to utilise it as a reference for policymakers to deliver on the ambition of universal access to the Internet. Click [here](#) to learn more.



GSMA WEBINAR: RECOGNISING THE POTENTIAL OF INDUSTRY 4.0 IN ASIA PACIFIC

As a continuation from the [GSMA's 2020 Digital Societies Report](#) release, GSMA held a webinar to take a deeper dive into the companion [Industry 4.0 report](#) that featured data from a recent survey looking into how policymakers, regulators, and the wider ICT ecosystem are using a "Whole-of-Government" approach (WGA) to deliver Industry 4.0 solutions in Asia Pacific. Participants were able to hear insights from stakeholders and learn from the progress made towards Industry 4.0 goals during the pandemic. Click [here](#) to access the blog and recording.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OUTLOOK 2021 BY GSMA, FACEBOOK, AND INDOSAT

In the midst of a global pandemic, digitisation offers telecommunication companies an opportunity to rebuild their market positions, reimagine their business systems, create innovative offers, and deliver a better experience for consumers. Indosat Ooredoo, GSMA, and Facebook hosted a virtual talk show on the 2021 outlook on digital transformation in the industry. Topics discussed included digitizing operations, how to enhance customer experience through collaboration, and raising cybersecurity awareness in a digitally-driven world. Click [here](#) to learn more.

GSMA Mobile for Development Updates



SCALING INNOVATION AND SUPPORTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP ECOSYSTEM: GROWING THE ECOSYSTEM THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

Building on its successes in 2019 and 2020, the GSMA Ecosystem Accelerator Programme continues to work closely with the start-up ecosystem in the Indo-Pacific region by offering mentorship and technical support to selected start-ups in the region.



It aims to offer a range of activities, such as workshops, to foster the partnership between mobile operators, start-ups, and entrepreneur support organisations to scale innovative and sustainable mobile services in emerging markets. For any mobile operators interested in participating, please respond to Carissa at apac_islandnations@gsma.com.

NEW GSMA REPORT: THE FINANCIAL LIFELINE AMIDST A GLOBAL PANDEMIC - HOW MOBILE MONEY IS THE SAVING GRACE IN A YEAR OF DISRUPTION ACROSS THE WORLD

With social distancing in place, more people than ever turned to mobile money as a safer option.

The State of the Industry Report examines the major industry trends in 2020, including the changes that mobile money provides, agent networks, and the millions of new and existing customers that embraced mobile money in 2020 as a safe and secure financial lifeline. To learn more, click on this [link](#) to access the full report.



ENABLING SERVICES FOR SMALLHOLDER CLIMATE RESILIENCE: DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES AND THE UNTAPPED POTENTIAL OF COMMERCIAL MICROWAVE LINK DATA

Life for smallholder farms across low- and middle-income countries can be challenging. With little access to improved inputs, smallholder agriculture yields may fall far short of their potential. The impacts of climate change on rain-fed agriculture are increasingly felt through gradual shifts in local climates, increased incidence of crop pests and disease, and more frequent and intense extreme weather events. These impacts are providing additional challenges to an already vulnerable sector.

Emerging digital technologies are strengthening traditional responses to these challenges and enabling new ones. GSMA AgriTech team works with mobile operators in Papua New Guinea to unlock the rainfall data held in their networks. For more information on digital technologies to support smallholder resilience, please click [here](#).

If you are a mobile operator interested in commercial microwave links (CML) rainfall observation, or an agribusiness or agritech interested in gaining access to CML rainfall data from Papua New Guinea, please reach out to Carissa at apac_islandnations@gsma.com.



NEW GSMA REPORT: "COVID-19: ACCELERATING THE USE OF DIGITAL AGRICULTURE"

This report provides agritech companies and mobile network operators (MNOs), as well as investors and donors that support them, with insights into the adoption of digital agriculture and how it can be accelerated in light of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Click on [this link](#) to access the full report.

DRIVING DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY: THE MOBILE INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE

For many, mobile devices are a gateway to the digital world. This is especially true for populations in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) which represent approximately three-quarters of all mobile internet users globally. The mobile industry's role in driving digital accessibility aims to ensure that 'no one is left behind' in an increasingly digitally-driven world, including persons with disabilities. Further to this, GSMA developed the [Mobile Internet Skills Training Toolkit \(MISTT\)](#), which provides a set of free resources (available in PDF and video format) to teach people the basic skills they need to access and use mobile devices.

Marking the 10th anniversary of the Global Accessibility Awareness Day (GAAD), the GSMA and Facebook APAC hosted a webinar on 'driving the digital inclusion of persons with disabilities in APAC: Progress and Opportunities'. The session included a GSMA presentation on research insights from APAC, the latest advancements on accessibility at Facebook with an honest and inspiring discussion from some incredibly passionate experienced panelists. Click [here](#) to access the webinar and recording.

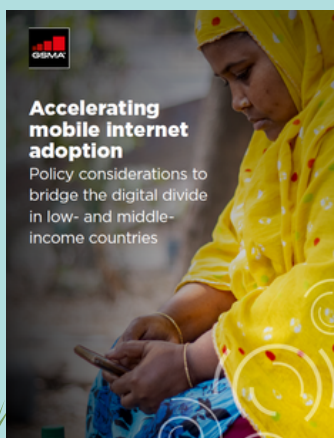
IMPROVING FARMERS' ACCESS TO CREDIT: A NEW GSMA PARTNERSHIP IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA

In September 2020, the GSMA launched a Joint Call to Action (JCTA) with the support from the Australian Government (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), aimed at agribusinesses, agritech companies and financial services providers (FSPs) in Papua New Guinea to identify a consortium that will work towards improving access to credit for smallholder farmers.

Following a competitive selection process, local consortium consisting of agribusiness Kamapim, Ltd., agritech Field Buzz and FSP MiBank was selected to pursue the objectives of the GSMA AgriTech programme activities in Papua New Guinea. To learn more, please click [here](#).



Policy and Regulatory Updates



NEW GSMA REPORT: "ACCELERATING MOBILE INTERNET ADOPTION: POLICY CONSIDERATIONS TO BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES"

This report outlines policy considerations to address the main barriers to mobile internet adoption and use, to ensure everyone can participate in an increasingly connected world. Click on [this link](#) to access the full report.

GSMA MOBILE PRIVACY FORUM: A PLATFORM TO DISCUSS AND EXCHANGE IDEAS

The Mobile Privacy Forum (MPF) is GSMA's platform for members to identify and discuss emerging trends and potential risks for the industry and consumers. The MPF meets four to five times a year and is comprised of mobile network operators from around the world. Examples of topics at MPF meetings include internet of things, cross-border data flows, pre-installed apps, metadata, and artificial intelligence.

The next MPF call is scheduled for 10th June with two timeslots at 8 AM (GMT+1) and 1 PM (GMT+1) to cater to different time zones. If you and/or your colleagues are interested in joining the MPF, please kindly respond to Carissa at apac_islandnations@gsma.com.

NEW GSMA REPORT: "MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECURITY LANDSCAPE 2021"

The GSMA 3rd Annual Mobile Telecommunications Security Landscape Report provides an overview of the significant security topics that GSMA sees as important for the mobile industry. This guide gives insights into the security landscape of the mobile telecommunication ecosystem, details key dimensions of consideration, and offers guidance to mitigate and tackle such threats. Click [here](#) to access the full report.



NEW GSMA REPORT: "5G SPECTRUM – GSMA PUBLIC POLICY POSITION"

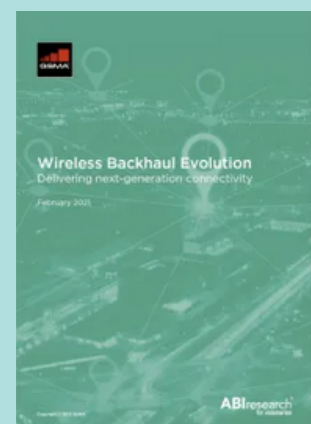
5G goes beyond meeting evolving customer mobile demands by also introducing a new level of flexibility and agility so the network can deliver customisable services to meet the needs of a huge variety of users and connection types.

This paper outlines the GSMA's key 5G spectrum positions, which focus on the areas where governments, regulators, and the mobile industry must cooperate to make 5G a success. Click [here](#) to access the full report.

NEW GSMA REPORT: "WIRELESS BACKHAUL SPECTRUM – 4G AND 5G EVOLUTION"

High wireless backhaul spectrum prices are a real barrier to 4G and 5G evolution, and this includes improved coverage. For countries that want to encourage the rollout of mobile broadband, reform of backhaul should be a priority.

The GSMA's latest report 'Wireless Backhaul Evolution' and the 'Spectrum for Wireless Backhaul' paper outlines the evolution of this important area. Click [here](#) to learn more.



WELCOME PETER RIGAMOTO, HEAD OF LEGAL AT DIGICEL TO THE APAC POLICY GROUP

We would like to give a warm welcome to Peter Rigamoto, Head of Legal at Digicel who recently joined the APAC Policy Group. Peter represents Digicel's operations in five countries in the Pacific Islands including Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Nauru.

The APAC Policy Group meets three times per year and comprises senior public policy executives from operators groups in the Asia-Pacific region to discuss and debate current policy interests including but not limited to, spectrum, infrastructure, cybersecurity, and a whole-of-government approach. If you would like to learn more about the benefits of joining the APAC Policy Group, please kindly respond to Carissa at apac_islandnations@gsma.com.

Upcoming Events



GSMA MOBILE GENDER GAP REPORT 2021: VIRTUAL LAUNCH

Join us for the launch of the Mobile Gender Gap Report 2021 on Thursday, 17th June from 13:00 – 14:00 (GMT+1) to hear the latest data and insights on the mobile gender gap across low- and middle-income countries.

This virtual launch will take place live on LinkedIn. The LinkedIn event URL will be added to this page soon so please mark your calendar and check back [here](#) later.



MWC BARCELONA 2021: THE WORLD'S BIGGEST CONNECTIVITY EVENT GOES FULLY HYBRID

On the 28th June – 1st July 2021, MWC Barcelona will be the place where our industry gathers to create a connected impact for a thriving society. Now, it is also the place where you can connect with industry decision-makers attending in-person and online too.

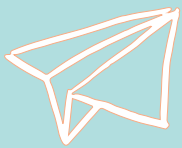
Get business done – In Barcelona, or from wherever you are in the world. Register [here](#) now!

MOBILE 360 DIGITAL SOCIETIES

Mobile 360 Digital Societies convenes the tech ecosystem from across Asia-Pacific alongside governments to reap the benefits of digitisation and seize the opportunities new technologies enable.



Join us 12-14 October 2021: subscribe for updates [here!](#)



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