



March, 14th, 2001



## Snapshots of ICT in the Pacific

Ian Thomson  
SPC - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION



- 1. SPC role for promoting ICT in the Pacific**
- 2. Snapshot of ICT development**
- 3. Perspectives**



# SPC and ICT

- **SPC role – Provide Technical Assistance to 22 Island countries**
  - **ICT Outreach section** formed under Economic Development Division early 2010 – 3 staff
  - ICT Ministers nominated SPC to be the **ICT Regional Coordinating Agency** in Tonga Meeting of 2010
- **Strategies**
  - **Framework** for ICT Development Action approved 2010
  - **Action Plan** to be considered at Nouméa Ministers meeting in April 2011
  - **Pacific ICT Portal** by SPC [www.e-pic.info](http://www.e-pic.info)



# ICT in the Pacific

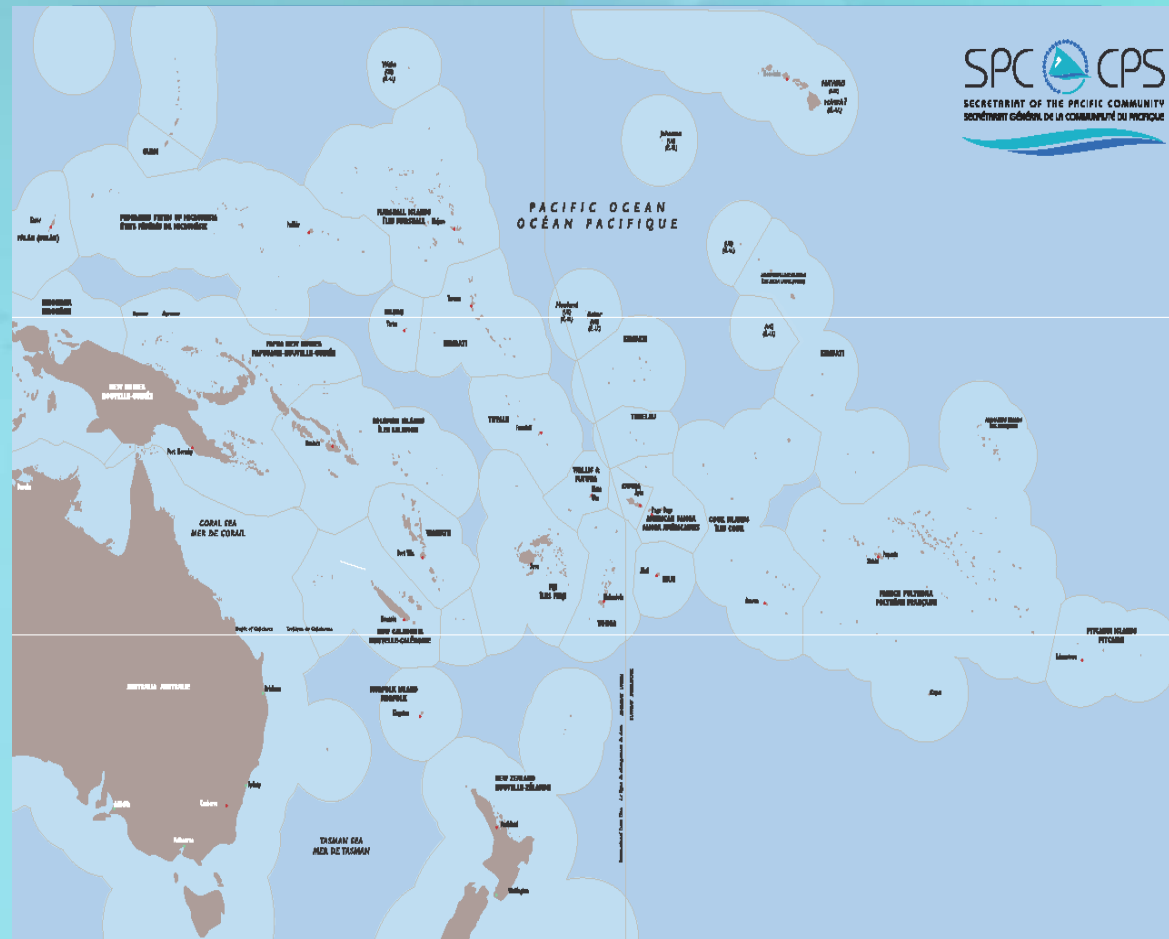
- **Actors**
  - PITA (Pacific Islands Telecommunications Association)
  - PICISOC (Pacific Internet Society)
  - USP (University of the South Pacific)
  - SOPAC (now part of SPC)
  - ITU (International Telecommunications Union)
  - UN-APCICT (Asia Pacific Center for ICT)
  - World Bank
  - ADB (Asian Development Bank)





# ICT in the Pacific

- **Snapshot**
  - Larger countries making good progress
  - Middle countries following
  - Small countries struggling
  - Everyone is struggling with Broadband, some doing wifi well
  - 5 new submarine cables planned
- **Most recent report from ADB**
  - <http://www.e-pic.info/homepage/item/284-ict-based-inclusive-growth-and-poverty-reduction-in-the-pacific>





**1. SPC role for promoting ICT in the Pacific**



**2. Snapshot of ICT development**

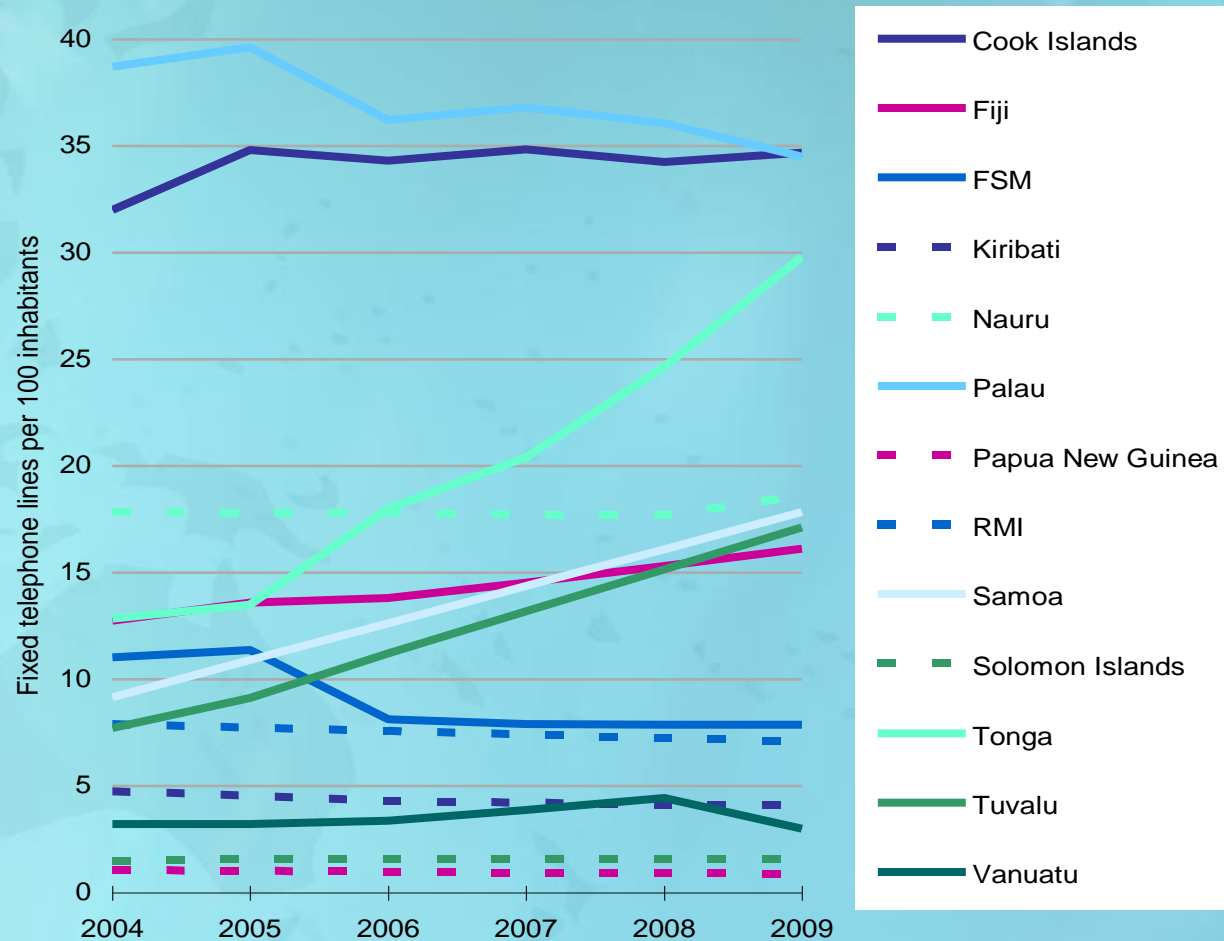
**3. Perspectives**



Country	Mobile Competition	Government Ownership	Independent Regulator	Population
Cook Islands				19 808
FSM		✓		110 728
Fiji	✓	✓	✓	849 218
Kiribati		✓	✓	98 045
Marshal Islands		✓		61 026
Nauru				10 210
Palau		✓		20 398
Papua New Guinea	✓	✓	✓	6 732 159
Samoa	✓		✓	178 846
Solomon Islands	✓		✓	523 170
Tonga	✓	✓		103 967
Tuvalu		✓		9 929
Vanuatu	✓		✓	239 788



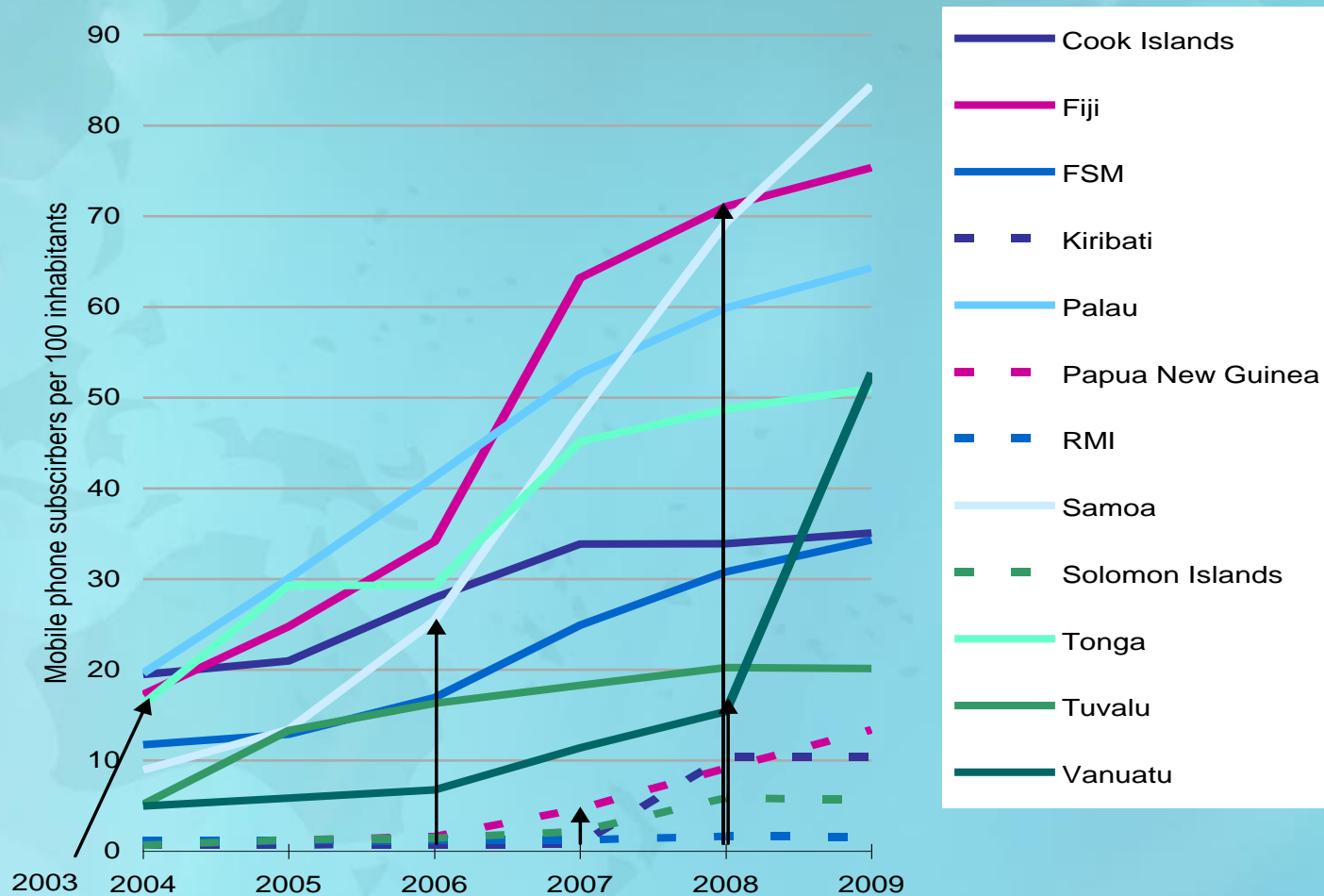
# Fixed lines





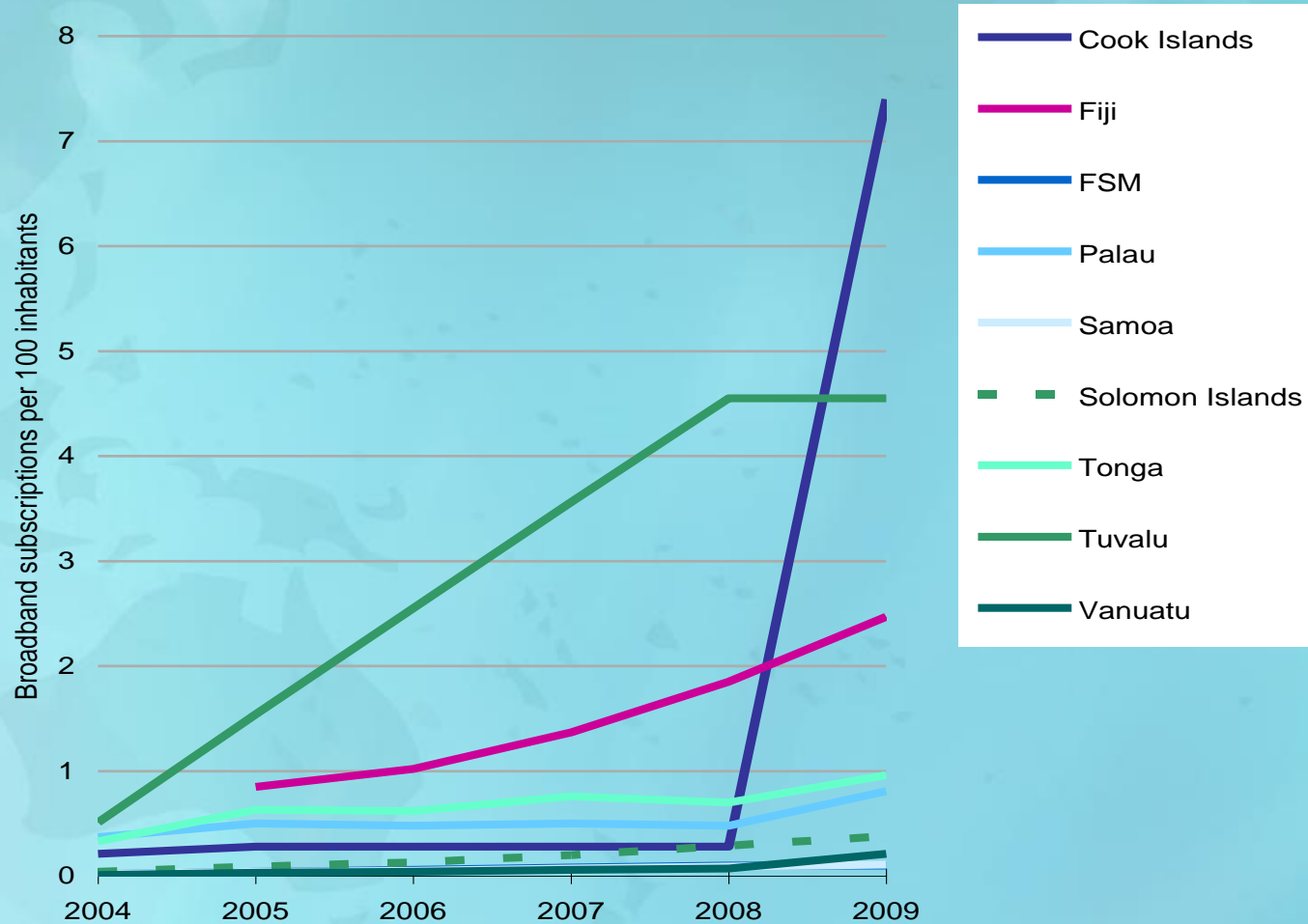


# Mobile phones



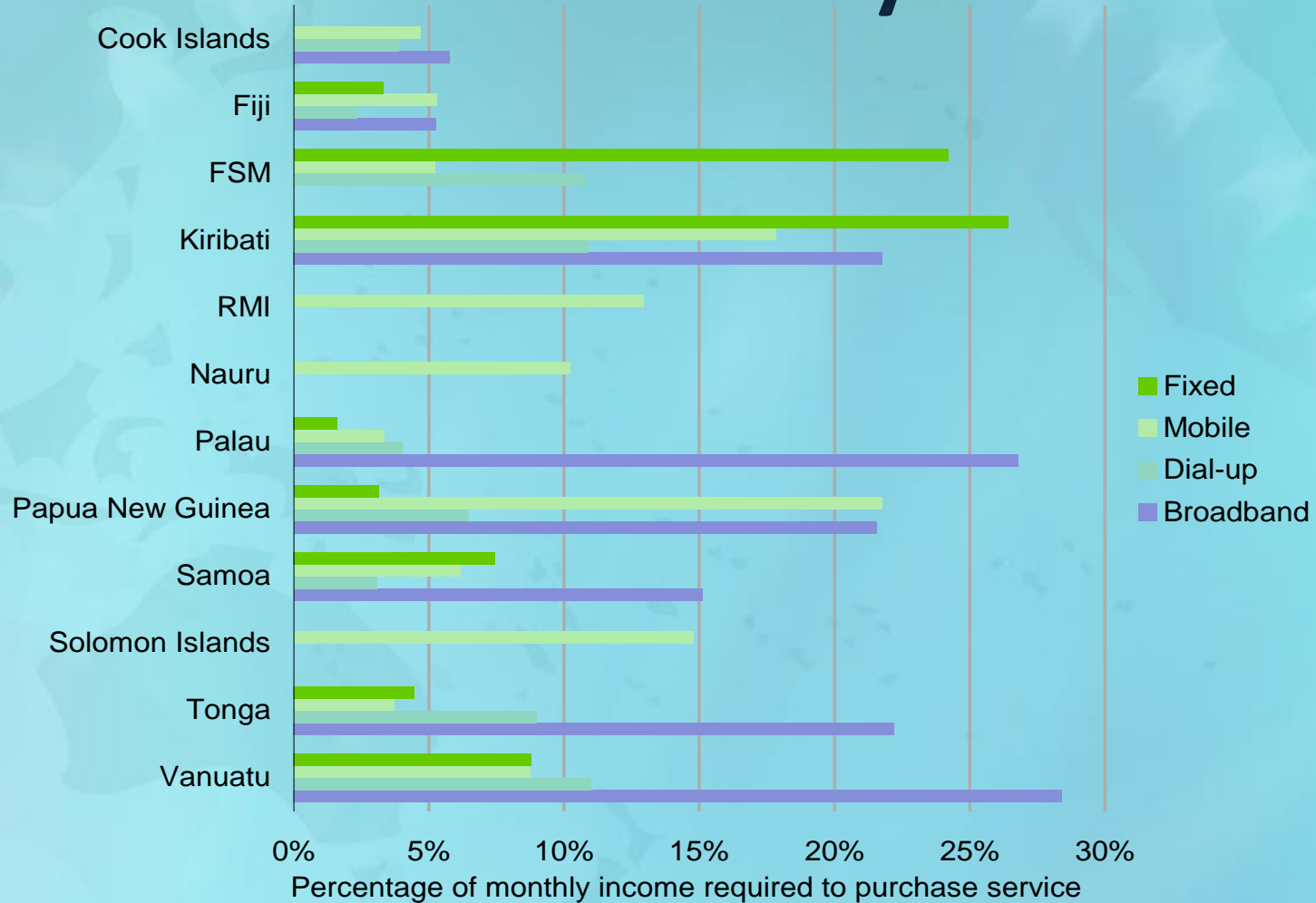


# Broadband Internet connections





# Affordability





**1. SPC role for promoting ICT in the Pacific**

**2. Snapshot of ICT development**



**3. Perspectives**



# ICT in other sectors

- **Health**
  - Some trials of m-health and connecting rural clinics
- **Education**
  - Forming working group to study, many pilots but no real integrated effort
- **Emergency Services**
  - Looking at connecting more remote sites
- **Provincial Government**
  - Becoming important for them





# Regional Capacity Building

- **ITU project**
  - **Studies and workshops** on 7 topics- Policy, Interconnection, Security, Licensing, Universal Access, Numbering, Spectrum
  - Papers available
- **SPC Project with APCICT and EU**
  - Academy of ICT Essentials – Korea
  - 10 modules, including ICT for Development, e-Govt, Trends for Leaders, Disaster Management, Security, Climate Change etc.



# New Developments

- **Perspectives**

- **Mobile coverage** getting over 80% in 8 countries
- **m-data and m-Payment** taking off
- **Government drive** for rural and remote connection

- **Supports**

- **World Bank** working with Kiribati, FSM and Marshals to reform the ICT sectors
- **Pacific Regional Regulatory Resource Center** being set up in Fiji
- **Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team** being set up in Fiji