

## **Paclnet 2006 Report**

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2006

First of all I would like to thank Pacific Internet Partners (PIP) for being so generous in sponsoring my trip to Samoa for the Paclnet 2006 conference. The Paclnet 2006 was yet another interesting and fruitful conference I have attended. I have enjoyed and learned a lot from all of the presentations, forums and the AGM. I was able to ask questions, meet people and learn about new experiences and new technical utilities. There was also time allocated for me to do a presentation on the Vanuatu IT Users Society (VITUS).

It was such a privilege for me to be chosen by the conference chairman to be part of a panel during the "Internet Censorship" forum, especially when someone like Dr. Vinton Cerf is in the room.

I have video taped most of the presentations and have sent my copies to the SOPAC team for editing along with their own. I will also share my copies with our members once editing is complete.

I was also part of the group trip to Manono Island and then to the mountain led by Ian Thompson and Murray checking the link that was set up for the schools (Samoa School Net Project). This project gave me ideas on how a similar project could be facilitated in some rural schools in Vanuatu.

On my way back to Vanuatu, I was able to visit a telecenter (e-chutney) in Navua Fiji where the community uses a single computer with dial-up email connection to market their local products in Suva. It was amazing how their profit increases each year.

Overall, the conference was a success trip for me and VITUS. I have learned a lot and will continue to share this information at home.

I am currently in contact with Ian Thompson on an ICT project proposal in Vanuatu and he is so keen on the implementation.

We had our VITUS committee meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2006 and the minutes are on our wiki [www.vignet.org.vu/wiki](http://www.vignet.org.vu/wiki). One of the issues agreed upon is to organize an annual national ICT conference as part our drive to educate our IT community as well as our leaders on the importance of ICT in developing countries like Vanuatu.



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