

JOINT AGENCY PRESS RELEASE

Pacific Islands Prosecution Services Join Forces to Fight Cybercrime

5 November 2024 (Sigatoka, Fiji) - A regional prosecution training on cybercrime and electronic evidence is being held from 5 to 7 November in Sigatoka (Fiji). The event brings together 30 participants from the Pacific Island's prosecution services jurisdictions to share expertise and resources at regional level in order to collectively strengthen their countries defence and mitigate the risks posed by cybercriminals.

The event is organised by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) Fiji, in partnership with the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, the European Commission through its [TAIEX instrument](#), and the Council of Europe Cybercrime Programme Office, through the [GLACY-e](#) and [Octopus](#) projects.

The workshop is an opportunity to increase understanding of the needs and challenges for criminal justice authorities when dealing with cybercrime cases and electronic evidence. It is also an occasion for the representatives of the judiciary and prosecution services to discuss and identify sustainable judicial training programmes on cybercrime and electronic evidence.

In his opening remark, The Honourable Minister for Justice Mr Siromi Turaga said, "Fiji and the Pacific are not immune to the evolving nature of crime and criminal enterprise, a reality that is increasingly evident in the digital era. Crime that once impacted our everyday lives locally have now shifted into the cyberspace, creating challenges on a global scale.

"This program presents a great opportunity to share our legal experiences, challenges and opportunities as individual nations. The transnational nature of cybercrime makes it critically important that we enhance our regional and international cooperation. This week's interactions have the potential to not only strengthen your national but also our regional capacity," said the Hon. Minister.

In his opening remarks, the European Union Deputy Head of Delegation, Mr. Nereo Peñalver Garcia said, "The European Union is committed to upholding an open, free, stable and secure cyberspace as the best model to support global prosperity and wellbeing, resisting the pressure of authoritarian states towards its fragmentation. The EU has a broad range of capacity building programmes around the world covering cybersecurity, tackling cybercrime, cyber diplomacy, and cyber defence. Therefore, we are delighted to support the regional workshop on cybercrime, which will empower the participants to build cooperation mechanisms, trust and skills to share data for investigation and prosecution, and make a tangible impact in reducing cybercrimes in the region."

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions of Fiji, Ms Nancy Tikoisuva said, “Internet has become an integral part of both our professional and personal lives and while the benefits are enormous, so too, are the risks. To understand and curb this growing threat we need to equip ourselves with the knowledge and understanding of the rapidly evolving nature of this crime in order to investigate and prosecute it successfully. This workshop will serve as an opportunity for increasing the mutual understanding on the needs and challenges for criminal justice authorities when dealing with cybercrime cases and electronic evidence. We thank our development partners in particular the Delegation of the European Union for the Pacific, the European Commission through its TAIEX instrument and the Council of Europe Cybercrime Programme Office, through the GLACY-e and Octopus projects for this initiative.”

Directors of Public Prosecution of the Pacific Islands, including Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Tuvalu are participating in the three-day workshop designed to ensure that prosecution services have access to up-to-date knowledge is paramount in the fight against cybercrime.

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Minister for Justice, Mr. Siromi Turaga addressing the participants during the opening ceremony of the Regional Workshop on Cybercrime and e-evidence in Sigatoka today (05.11.24).



Participants of the Regional Workshop on Cybercrime and e-evidence in Sigatoka today (05.11.24).



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Minister for Justice, Mr. Siromi Turaga with Acting DPP, Ms Nancy Tikoisuva at the Regional Workshop on Cybercrime and e-evidence in Sigatoka today (05.11.24).



The European Union Deputy Head of Delegation, Mr. Nereo Peñalver Garcia addressing participants through zoom at the Regional Workshop on Cybercrime and e-evidence in Sigatoka today (05.11.24).



The DPPs and Commissioners of Independent Commission against Corruption from Fiji and the Pacific region with Minister for Justice, Mr Siromi Turaga (5th from left) during the opening of the Regional Workshop on Cybercrime and e-evidence in Sigatoka today (05.11.24).