



For Immediate Release

CIPE Reports Show Path to Digital Opportunities for Papua New Guinea

Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea – The [Center for International Private Enterprise \(CIPE\)](#), a global leader in building competitive markets and strengthening democracy, has released a series of reports detailing the current state and future potential of Papua New Guinea's (PNG) digital transformation.

These reports are part of CIPE's broader effort to engage with local stakeholders in PNG and the Pacific region to promote digital policies that bring economic and social benefits; the reports underline the need for comprehensive digital policy reform, digital literacy, and digital rights awareness in PNG and across the region.

"Digital transformation holds the key to unlocking vast economic and social opportunities for Papua New Guinea," said a CIPE spokesperson. "Through comprehensive analysis and targeted recommendations, these reports aim to guide PNG towards a future where digital technologies empower all citizens and fuel sustainable development."

In an era where the internet's openness and reliability are paramount for economic growth, CIPE's efforts in PNG are part of an effort to ensure that information – an essential ingredient for that growth – remains free from undue control.

Unlocking PNG's Digital Potential

Four new reports offer insights into the legal, regulatory, and governance challenges and opportunities facing PNG as it seeks to harness digital technology for economic growth and societal benefits. These reports are:

- [Papua New Guinea's Digital Transformation - Understanding Legal and Regulatory Challenges](#): This report explores the laws and policies that shape how the internet is developed and used in PNG, uncovering challenges in how major internet infrastructure projects are planned and funded. It emphasizes the importance of competition, transparency, and security in digital transformation efforts.



- **[Papua New Guinea's Digital Transformation - Understanding the Governance Structure:](#)** Focusing on the broader concept of digital governance, this report explores the institutions and rules that govern the internet in PNG, examining how government, businesses, and other groups currently make decisions around connectivity and the internet. It underlines the importance of collaborative relationships among government, civil society, and the private sector and identifies key governance gaps in PNG's current digital governance structure.
- **[Understanding the Regulatory Environment for ICT Infrastructure in Papua New Guinea - A Case Study of the Coral Sea Cable System:](#)** This case study explores the Coral Sea Cable System project, a major telecommunications infrastructure initiative connecting Australia, PNG, and the Solomon Islands. It addresses challenges such as financing, security, and transparency and offers recommendations for future ICT infrastructure projects in PNG.
- **[Understanding the Regulatory Environment for ICT Infrastructure in Papua New Guinea - A Case Study on the Integrated Government Information System \(IGIS\):](#)** This case study examines a government project to centralize public data management and improve online services. It identifies weaknesses in security and transparency and provides recommendations for better management of future digital projects.

CIPE's findings across these reports reveal significant opportunities for PNG to prosper in a digital future, as well as significant barriers, including inadequate infrastructure, high internet costs, and limited digital literacy. These challenges slow the full realization of digital opportunities and inclusive participation in the digital future.

CIPE's Comprehensive Approach

In response to these findings, CIPE has undertaken several initiatives to promote digital literacy, support policy reforms, and enhance digital infrastructure in PNG. These include:

- **Developing Digital Literacy:** [CIPE has launched an online training course](#), complete with a [dictionary of digital terms translated into Tok Pisin](#), PNG's dominant local language. This initiative aims to equip



entrepreneurs with the skills needed to innovate and grow their businesses online.

- **Supporting Policy Reform:** With support from CIPE, local partners are working towards improved digital infrastructure and policies that support economic growth and digital rights, laying the groundwork for a more inclusive digital future.
- **Promoting Open and Reliable Internet Access:** At the heart of CIPE and its Pacific partner's work in the region is the promotion of an open and reliable Internet, essential for accessing information and supporting a vibrant business ecosystem. CIPE's work in PNG is a critical step towards ensuring that the digital economy remains a space for innovation, opportunity, and economic prosperity.

Looking Forward

As CIPE continues to support PNG's digital transformation, the organization plans to expand these initiatives to other Pacific Island nations, creating a ripple effect of digital empowerment across the region.

By ensuring a secure, open, reliable, and interoperable internet, CIPE and its Pacific partners are not just transforming the digital landscape in PNG but paving the way for a more inclusive and prosperous digital future in the Pacific Island region.

About CIPE

The Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) is a global organization that believes open markets and democracy are the best way to build a better world. Working with local partners and tomorrow's leaders, CIPE advances business policymaking, promotes opportunity, and works to promote resilient and inclusive economies. Founded in 1983 as a core institute of the National Endowment for Democracy and an affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, CIPE has programs in more than 100 countries.

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