



The Asia Foundation

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between PNG Department of Information and Communications Technology and The Asia Foundation (TAF)

Whereas the Parties consisting of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea through the Papua New Guinea Department of Information and Communications Technology (hereafter referred to as "DICT") and The Asia Foundation (hereafter referred to as "TAF") have agreed, based on discussions between the representatives of the two Parties, to sign this general Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) spelling out the key principles and components of a collaboration and partnership.

Consistent with the multi-year working relationship which now exists between the government of Papua New Guinea (PNG) and TAF, and in light of the current challenges facing the region due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Parties agree to advance their common goal of addressing the threats that misinformation and disinformation online (i.e. "information disorder") pose to the effectiveness of PNG national government policy by jointly developing the Asia Pacific Information Disorder Index: an assessment tool that will take a whole-of-government approach to evaluating the capacity of governments to respond to information disorder threats.

Under this MoU, the DICT and TAF agree that:

1. During the calendar year concluding December 31, 2021, TAF will provide financial, staffing and technical assistance to support research, development, and implementation of the Asia Pacific Information Disorder Index with input and advice from the DICT.

This research and development will take several forms, including:

- the development of an initial draft framework for the Index in collaboration with experts from Stanford University and the Oceania Cyber Security Centre, with input from DICT;
 - the review of the initial framework by a Pacific region task force upon which a representative from DICT will sit and, if possible, chair;
 - the implementation of an initial national-level assessment utilizing the Asia Pacific Information Disorder Index which will be facilitated by DICT in order to evaluate PNG capacity to respond to information disorder, with a special emphasis on COVID-19 vaccine mis- and dis-information.
2. TAF will provide financial, staffing and technical assistance to the DICT where appropriate to support the participation in the initial assessment, and will also evaluate the findings of the assessment and consider a grant to PNG government partners to address issues identified during the AP-IDI assessment.
 3. Circumstances permitting, TAF will also provide financial assistance to support the dissemination of findings to key stakeholders in the PNG government.

4. The DICT and TAF mutually agree to assess the partnership and collaboration as and when needed and make necessary adjustments on any future areas of partnership.
5. The Parties hereby designate the following focal points for all purposes associated with this MOU:

TAF Representative and Address

Name:	John Karr
Position:	Senior Director
Address:	465 California St., 9th Fl San Francisco, CA 94104, USA
Business Hours Telephone:	+1.415.982.4640
Email:	john.karr@asiafoundation.org

The DICT Representative and Address

Name:	Steven Matainaho
Position:	Secretary
Address:	Department of Information and Communications Technology Port Moresby Papua New Guinea
Business Hours Telephone:	
Email:	steven.matainaho@ict.gov.pg

The respective focal points will be responsible for:

- Coordinating with their respective organizations in order to establish effective communication and liaisons with the other focal point;
- Developing and revising the work program to enhance the scope and depth of the partnership;
- Providing effective coordination of the implementation of this MOU;
- Reporting on and promoting this MOU and the cooperation activities undertaken under it;
- Convening periodic consultations about the MOU; and
- Monitoring the performance of the MOU.


Each Party may, by prior written notice to the other Party, substitute other focal points for those designated herein above or designate additional focal points.

6. Either party may terminate this MoU by giving three months advance notice in writing to the other party.
7. Any amendment, termination or expiration of this MoU will not affect the terms of activities ongoing at the time of notification of amendment, termination, or expiration unless otherwise agreed upon by the two parties.

8. The two parties agree to consult with each other for resolving disputes or misunderstandings that may arise in the implementation of this MoU or any subsequent associated agreements.
9. The two parties agree that subsequent to the signing of this MOU, the DICT and TAF will jointly develop detailed agreements to support the project activities outlined above, and will work together to explore other areas of collaboration where appropriate and mutually agreed to.

EXECUTED AS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

SIGNED for and on behalf of the Independent State of Papua New Guinea:



Steven Matainaho
Secretary

PNG Department of Information and Communications Technology
Port Moresby
Papua New Guinea

Date: May 10, 2021

SIGNED for and on behalf of The Asia Foundation:



Dr. Gordon Hein
Senior Vice President
The Asia Foundation
465 California St., 9th Fl
San Francisco, CA 94104
United States of America

Date: May 28, 2021