

LOCAL NEWS

Vanuatu to host up to 350 APriGF Delegates

VANUATU IS EXPECTING UP TO 350 delegates when the country hosts the 2018 Asia Pacific regional Internet Governance Forum (APriGF) from 13 to 16 August 2018.

The figure has been revealed by organisers in the capital city, Port Vila yesterday.

This will be the first time that the APriGF will be hosted in a Pacific Island Country (PIC) since the creation of this regional body in 2010.

Delegates are expected from all over the Asia-Pacific region including Australia and New Zealand, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, The Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Vietnam.

Further afield, we also have delegates as far as the USA, UAE, Germany, and several countries in the African continent.

The forum will be hosted on Iririki Island Resort in Port Vila. A lot of preparations have already taken place by the local host committee lead by the co-hosts – Office of the Chief Information Officer (OGCIO) and the

Telecommunications and Radio Regulator (TRR).

The Government of Vanuatu through the co-hosts including the Event Coordination team are satisfied with the amount of preparations that have been undertaken over the past 3 months and is confident that Vanuatu will put on a good event as host country for the 2018 event.

Key VIPs and dignitaries who will be attending the forum include the Minister of ICT for Solomon Islands, Vice Minister for Communications and IT for Samoa, Director of Public Policy for FaceBook, as well as the world renowned Father of the Internet and Chief Evangelist for Google, Dr Vinton Gray Cerf, and very high profile regional and international stakeholders from across the Asia-Pacific, Europe and the world at large who will converge in Port Vila for the first time for this weeklong forum.

Prime Minister Charlot Salwai will officially open this forum on Tuesday, 14th August. Various Ministers and local dignitaries will also attend the High Level Official Opening.