UN ICT4SIDS Partnership

Smart Solomons Pilot Project -- An Overview

(Draft: Feb 10, 2017)

Overview

A large number of "smart enterprise" projects are underway at present with different areas of focus. Some projects are technical only, some are social only, and there are some mixtures. Examples of Smart Projects are: smart cities, smart community centers, smart healthcare centers, and smart transportation systems. According to SAC, the working group of Chinese national smart cities standardization, "Smart Cities is a new concept and a new model, which applies the new generation of information technologies, such as the internet of things, cloud computing, big data and space/geographical information integration, to facilitate the planning, construction, management and smart services of cities"[1]. The ultimate purpose of transforming a city to a smart city is to make the people live a better quality of life with easier and safer environment and economic growth.

More than a thousand smart city projects are underway at present. A Forbes report has identified five top smart cities - Barcelona, NYC, London, Singapore, Nice. Most of these projects are concerned with large countries/cities in developed countries and are focusing on traffic, parking, and pollution issues. Specific examples of "smart" projects in developing countries are: smart cities in Nepal, India, and China; and Smart Rwanda and Smart Africa. These projects, while interesting, are not of great value to SIDS (Small Islands Developing States) for the following reasons:

- Most projects in developing countries are not explicitly addressing the health, education, public safety, and public welfare issues facing the underserved populations.
- Smart cities and enterprises make lives more comfortable for people who are already living comfortable lives. However, many populations in rural areas are being left out.
- Many smart city projects are of high value in the countries where most people live in the cities (e.g., Europe and the US). However, most people live in rural areas in SIDS. For example, almost 80% of the people in the Solomons Islands live in rural areas.
- SIDS are small and poor in financial and technology resources and thus have to rely on People, Processes and Technology tradeoffs. This is not true in large cities in developed nations where the all the needed technologies are easily available.

The goal of the Smart Solomons Project is to transform the Solomon Islands into a smart island by 2020 by using the latest thinking in people, processes and technologies – not the technologies alone. It is our hope that the lessons learned from this project, combined with lessons learned from other relevant smart city projects around the globe, will help us to develop best practices that can be used to transform other SIDS.

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[1] [1] ISO/IEC JTC 1, Information technology. Smart Cities – Preliminary Report 2014. Switzerland, 2015.

The Smart Solomons Vision

The goal of the Smart Solomons Project, as stated previously, is to transform the Solomon Islands into a smart island by 2020 and to develop the best practices that can be used to transform other SIDS. Specifically, the long range vision is to achieve the following by 2020:

- Demonstrate, through hands-on experience, how the adoption of Samoa Pathway and UN Post 2015 Agenda can transform SIDS into Smart SIDS.
- Make Smart Solomons a posterchild to show how compliance with SDGs, especially SDGs 1-4, can be used as measure of being a "Smart SIDS".
- Implement the vision displayed in Figure1. This vision shows about 6 ICT hubs, one per main Island in Solomons (the ICT hubs are based on the Samoa Pathway Declaration). Each hub serves as a Smart Community Center with specific SDG goals (e.g. economic development, health, education, public safety, public welfare, etc) of vital importance to the island.
- The hubs directly communicate with each other and also with a National Center located in the main island (Honiara), The hubs also communicate with a global center in USA (HU – Harrisburg University)

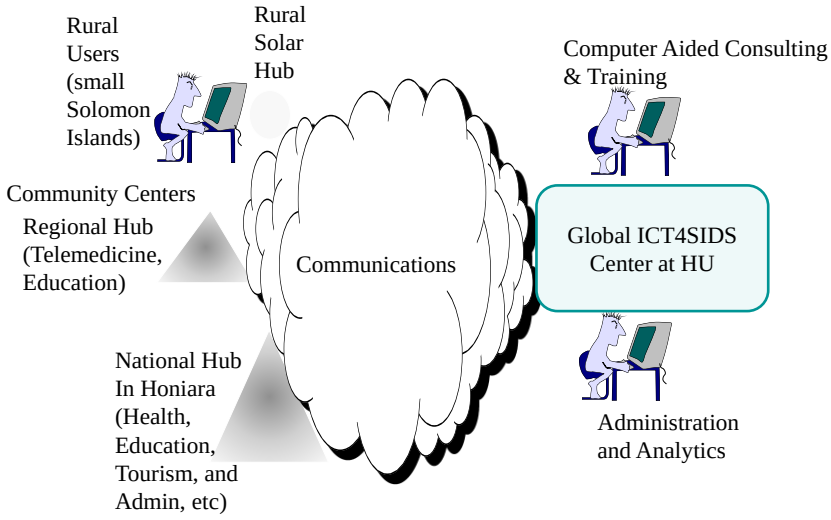

Figure1: Proposed Smart Solomons Vision

Smart Solomons will be a highly visible project that is intended for direct benefits to the Solomon Islands in terms of the health, education, employment and entrepreneurship opportunities. It could also create international recognition (the first Smart SIDS in the World) and opportunities to present at UN and international conferences.

Pilot Project Methodology

The basic elements of the proposed vision are already operational: the Global ICT4SIDS Center is operational at HU, a Telemedicine Hub for Hypertension is operational in Haiti, an ICT Education Hub is operational in Tanzania, and a Community Center is operational in Jamaica. These hubs are also interconnected with each other.

The main phases of our methodology to get started on this Project are the following:

- Phase1 (3-6 Months): The project is formed, a Point of Contact (POC) is appointed for the Project and a National Hub is formed in Honiara.
- Phase 2 (3-6 months): Add other hubs in Solomons (Tina, Kau, Mangakiki, Ruainu, etc) and add "rural islands" (out of 900) in Solomons gradually
- Phase 3: TBD

Phase 1 Details:

Appoint a POC and develop a community center in Honiara that serves as the main Smart Solomon Hub that is registered as an NGO in Solomons. It offers the following services:

- Healthcare (hypertension), education, tourism
- Research on what else can be done at low cost but high impact to help the public
- Works on getting additional data needed for improving the situation (works with UN dept of statistics and world bank)
- Managed by a POC and assisted by other members of the team (Peter, Health,)
- Connected to the internet by using a broadband link (around 1 Mbps)
- Initiate collaborations with Global Center and other SIDS Hubs

Results So Far:

At the time of this writing (Feb, 2017), the Smart Solomons Pilot Project has started and the Pilot Project team has been formed. Specifically, the ICT4SIDS Team consists of Dr Amjad Umar (ICT4SIDS POC) and Mr Hannan Dawood (Technical Support). The Smart Solomons Team consists of Mr Peter Kenilorea (Smart Solomans POC) and Ms Vanessa Kenilorea (Smart Solomons Administrator). Additional team members may be added on both sides, if and when needed.

An initial portal for Smart Solomons has been created and is currently housed at ICT4SIDS Global Center at Harrisburg University. Our first major task is to establish a broadband link between Honiara and the ICT4SIDS Global Center. Then we will move the Smart Solomons Portal to Honiara.