



Telecommunications &  
Radiocommunications  
Regulator

PO Box 3547  
Port Vila  
Vanuatu  
t: +678 27621  
e: [enquiries@trr.vu](mailto:enquiries@trr.vu)

**24 August 2015**

**Official Speech:**

**Ms. Dalsie Baniala**

**Manager – Consumer and Corporate Affairs, TRR**

**at the Opening of Staff Training for the**

**Computer Lab and Internet Community Center (CLICC) Program**

Hello Dear Guests and Trainees:

I bring you greetings from TRR, the Vanuatu Telecommunications and Radiocommunications Regulator and from our Regulator, Ron Box. As many of you know, TRR has been planning the CLICC program for almost two years now. So we are very excited and pleased to see you here, since that means that this important program is now getting under way.

The CLICC (or Computer Lab and Internet Community Center) program began in late 2013, when monies were kindly made available by the Government of Australia and its Government for Growth program. The CLICC program is part of a larger effort by TRR to increase broadband Internet access across the country. I am very pleased to report that this effort is on track to meet its goal of 98 percent broadband availability across the country, by January 1, 2018.

As you may have read in the paper, Vanuatu has just been honored by the United Nations and International Telecommunication Union for its progress in information and communications technology, and we think that our

broadband program and the CLICC effort helped us win this international honor.

For the CLICCs, a Grant Review Committee was set up, with membership from TRR, the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer (OGCIO), and the Australian Government. MoET provided key input, and TRR, OGCIO, the US Peace Corps and several contractors developed the application forms and procedures for the CLICC grant program.

We were very pleased that we received over 300 applications for the CLICC grants and for the related programs of Tablets for Schools and rural Internet Cafes. So you should be very, very honored that your 15 schools were chosen from all of those many applications, to receive the first computer labs.

I am sure that you all remember the key, basic principles for CLICC operation that were laid out in the application forms. These were:

- The computer labs are based in schools and are for the use of schoolchildren during the day. But they must be open to the community and the children in the afternoon, evening and on weekends.
- Since the CLICCs are to be used by the community and the schools, there needs to be cooperation and a common vision for the CLICC purpose and operations. The school committees need to discuss this common vision and ensure that it is implemented.
- The CLICC program is a one-time grant, to get the project started in your village. There is no follow-on funding available. Therefore your community and school will need to raise funds over time, to pay for maintenance, equipment replacement, staff to monitor the CLICCs during after-school hours, and other expenses. The CLICC at Rensarie on Malekula found that one of the best ways to raise funds was to show videos of local bands every Friday night, and charge a small admission fee. So don't be nervous about coming up with creative ways to raise funds.
- The CLICCs are intended to bring educational materials in to your schools and communities from the outside world. But another major purpose is for you and your students and villagers to create local content in your island languages and in Bislama, for use as school projects and to share with the world.

- The CLICCs, their Internet access systems, and their power systems need to be maintained to a high standard. We have found that power reliability and trained staff are the biggest challenges for CLICCs in Vanuatu and other similar countries.

I should also mention that similar CLICCs in other countries have sometimes encountered problems, where hard-working women come to the CLICCs to try them out. If they find that the atmosphere is not friendly and the CLICC isn't clearly useful to them in their daily lives, they may not ever return. So you need to ensure that your CLICC is welcoming, and attracts everyone and is useful to everyone in the community – women, men, children, chiefs, pastors, villagers and visitors.

We know that you are committed to CLICC success and sustainability. We want to thank all of you for participating in this exciting program.

If this first wave of CLICCs is a success, then we expect that a second and third wave of CLICCs will be rolled out to other islands and villages. So a lot is resting on your shoulders as you go through this training and begin operating your CLICCs.

We wish you every success, and are so pleased that you are here to help us create a better educated, healthy, wealthy and more just Vanuatu.

Tank yu tumas!

#end#