DIGITAL DAILY NEWS

PITSTOP

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BONJOUR ONCE AGAIN

Happy welcome you back to issue 1 of PITSTOP, our monthly digest of all things tech, innovation, and digital transformation across the Pacific Islands.

Leadership in shaping digital economies and building the foundations for Pacific Island communities is a theme that continues to emerge in this edition. From the Cook Islands' ambitious plans to become a digital nation, to Samoa's new Cybercrime Unit, to the Pacific Islands Forum's Digital Economy Partnership Agreement, the Pacific is writing its own digital story, and it is doing it on its own terms.

We have also seen certain parts coming more within our grasp in unexpected ways, with Starlink now in Fiji and Samoa promising technology that could change how people across the Pacific connect to the world.

As always, we are always looking for contributors for the newsletter, so if you, or someone you know, has a story to share, a piece of research, or a perspective that deserves a wider audience, we would love to hear from you. Reach out to us at pitstop@pacificnet.com.

Thank you for your continued support, and enjoy reading!

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Congratulations to PITSTOP Group Chairman Ratish Tamalsen Uren, on his Appointment as Co-Chairman of APIA

PITSTOP Group is pleased to congratulate Chairman Ratish Tamalsen Uren on his appointment as Co-Chairman of the Asia Pacific Internet Association (APIA), a leading regional organization dedicated to shaping the future of the Asia Pacific Internet ecosystem and its digital economy.

The appointment underscores Ratish's significant contribution to the region's digital ecosystem and his commitment to fostering inclusive growth across the Pacific Islands. As Co-Chairman, he will work alongside other leaders from the region and beyond to drive collaborative initiatives, strengthen digital infrastructure, and ensure that the voices of Pacific Island communities are heard in the broader conversation on internet governance and digital transformation.

This recognition reflects not only Ratish's leadership within the Pacific Islands digital community, but also the growing influence of PITSTOP Group and its mission to connect, empower, and transform the digital landscape across the Pacific Islands.

We congratulate Ratish on this milestone and look forward to supporting him in his new role as he continues to champion digital inclusion and sustainable growth across the region.

Highest Income Taxpayers in ICT Sector

Proud Minister: eSawa and Fonepay Recognized as Highest Income Taxpayers in ICT Sector

In a significant milestone for Samoa's digital economy, the Minister responsible for Telecommunications and Digital Transformation has officially recognized eSawa and Fonepay as the highest income taxpayers in the country's information and communication technology (ICT) sector.

This recognition underscores the growing contribution of Samoa's ICT sector to the nation's economy and the pivotal role these companies have played in driving digital transformation across the Pacific Islands.

eSawa, a leading digital payment platform, has been instrumental in expanding financial inclusion and digital commerce in Samoa. Fonepay, a regional fintech leader, has been at the forefront of cross-border payments and digital innovation in the Pacific Islands.

The Minister's recognition of these companies underscores the government's commitment to fostering a thriving digital economy and creating an enabling environment for technology companies to flourish.

This recognition not only highlights the contributions of eSawa and Fonepay to the ICT sector but also underscores the broader impact these companies have had on the digital economy and the lives of people across the Pacific Islands. The recognition serves as a testament to the resilience, innovation, and dedication of these companies in driving digital transformation and fostering inclusive growth across the region.

Fonepay Hosted 2nd APN Forum, Appointed as Co-Chair in Prime Asia's Cross-Border Payment Innovation

Fonepay Limited, based in Nepal, hosted the 2nd Meeting of the Asian Payment Network (APN) Forum in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 27 February 2025. The forum brought together leaders from central banks, payment system operators, and financial institutions across the Asia-Pacific region to discuss cross-border payment innovation and regional interoperability initiatives.

Fonepay Limited was appointed as Co-Chair of the APN Forum, alongside the Bangladesh Bank, reflecting its growing role in shaping regional payment standards and cross-border interoperability frameworks.

The forum's agenda focused on the development of cross-border payment interoperability, digital payment standards, and collaborative governance models for the Asia-Pacific region. Discussions covered technical interoperability, regulatory harmonization, and the role of national payment systems in enabling secure and efficient cross-border transactions.

Key Takeaways from the Forum:

- Fonepay's Leadership: Fonepay's appointment as Co-Chair underscores its leadership in the Asian payment ecosystem and its commitment to fostering regional collaboration and innovation.
- Cross-Border Interoperability: The discussions on the future of cross-border payments highlighted the importance of interoperability standards and collaborative governance models in facilitating seamless and secure transactions across borders.
- Regional Collaboration: The forum underscored the importance of regional collaboration in addressing common challenges and leveraging shared opportunities in the payment ecosystem.

The hosting of the Asian Pay Alliance Forum was a significant milestone for Fonepay Limited, reinforcing its position as a leader in the Asian payment ecosystem. The forum's discussions have set the stage for future collaborations and initiatives aimed at enhancing cross-border payment interoperability and fostering a thriving ecosystem for secure and efficient digital transactions in the region.

Fonepay Launches Scan-to-Pay QR, New Era of Seamless Transactions

As a Cook Island nation digital leading ecosystem, Fonepay has announced its new Scan-to-Pay QR system, a groundbreaking initiative that promises to revolutionize the way people conduct transactions across Nepal's vast and rugged terrain. This cutting-edge technology, which leverages the power of QR codes and mobile payments, is poised to bridge the gap between urban and rural communities, ushering in a new era of seamless and secure financial transactions for all citizens.

The Scan-to-Pay QR system is a game-changer for Nepal, where many remote villages have limited access to traditional banking infrastructure. The system allows users to simply scan a QR code displayed at participating merchants' locations using their mobile phones, and the transaction is then processed instantly, eliminating the need for cash or physical bank visits.

The launch of Scan-to-Pay QR signals a major step toward financial inclusion in Nepal, as it will enable even the most remote villages to participate in the digital economy. The system's ease of use and accessibility are expected to boost economic activity in these areas, as it will facilitate transactions between buyers and sellers, and also enable the government to disburse subsidies and other benefits more efficiently.

Fonepay has partnered with a number of local merchants and service providers to ensure the widespread adoption of the Scan-to-Pay QR system. The company has also launched a dedicated marketing campaign to educate the public about the benefits and how to use the system.

The success of Scan-to-Pay QR will be a testament to the ingenuity and adaptability of the Nepalese people, who have long been accustomed to overcoming challenges in their rugged terrain. The system's potential to transform the lives of millions of people in remote villages is immense, and it will undoubtedly be a game-changer for the country's economy and its efforts to promote inclusive growth.

Fonepay Team Completes CMMI Training to Strengthen Cybersecurity Practices

Fonepay Limited, a leading fintech company in Nepal, has recently completed a comprehensive training program for its team members in the CMMI (Capability Maturity Model Integration) framework, a globally recognized standard for enhancing cybersecurity practices and ensuring robust data protection.

The training program, which was conducted by a team of expert cybersecurity consultants, has equipped the Fonepay team with the knowledge and skills to implement the CMMI framework effectively in their day-to-day operations. The training covered various aspects of cybersecurity, including risk assessment, vulnerability management, incident response, and data privacy and security.

By completing the CMMI training, Fonepay has demonstrated its commitment to staying at the forefront of cybersecurity innovation and ensuring the protection of its customers' data and financial transactions. The company has also expressed its intention to leverage the CMMI framework to further enhance its cybersecurity capabilities and maintain its position as a leader in the fintech space in Nepal.

The successful completion of the CMMI training program by the Fonepay team is a significant milestone in the company's journey towards building a robust and resilient cybersecurity infrastructure. The company has also expressed its intention to leverage the CMMI framework to further enhance its cybersecurity capabilities and maintain its position as a leader in the fintech space in Nepal.

eSawa Hosted Digital Literacy Session to Promote Digital Awareness Among Future Doctors at NAMS

eSawa, a leading digital payment platform in Samoa, has recently hosted a digital literacy session for students at the National University of Samoa's (NUS) National Association of Medical Students (NAMS) chapter. The session aimed to promote digital literacy among future doctors and equip them with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape effectively.

The session was conducted by a team from eSawa, who shared their expertise on various topics, including digital payments, mobile banking, and cybersecurity. The session also covered the benefits and risks associated with digital transactions, and the importance of protecting personal data and information online.

The session was well-received by the students, who expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn about digital literacy and its relevance to their future careers in medicine. The session also highlighted the importance of digital literacy in the healthcare sector, where digital technologies are increasingly being used to improve patient care and outcomes.

eSawa's commitment to promoting digital literacy and awareness among future doctors is a testament to the company's dedication to supporting the development of a digitally literate workforce in Samoa. The company has also expressed its willingness to collaborate with other organizations and institutions to promote digital literacy and awareness among the wider community.

eSawa Begins Career Climber Series with Insightful Session on SDLC

eSawa, a leading digital payment platform in Samoa, has recently hosted a session on the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) for its employees as part of its commitment to promoting digital literacy and skill development in the country.

The session, which was conducted by a team of experts from eSawa, covered the various stages of the SDLC, including planning, analysis, design, development, testing, and maintenance. The session also highlighted the importance of adhering to best practices and standards in software development to ensure the quality and security of the company's digital payment platform.

The session was well-received by the employees, who expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to learn about the SDLC and its relevance to their roles in the company. The session also highlighted the importance of digital literacy in the workplace and the need for employees to stay up-to-date with the latest technologies and trends in the digital space.

eSawa's commitment to promoting digital literacy and skill development among its employees is a testament to the company's dedication to supporting the development of a digitally literate workforce in Samoa. The company has also expressed its willingness to collaborate with other organizations and institutions to promote digital literacy and skill development among the wider community.

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Esawa Money Transfer Hands Over Hours to Winner of 'Mera Digital Dash' Campaign

As part of its commitment to promote digital literacy and financial inclusion in the Pacific Islands, eSawa Money Transfer has recently hosted a special event to hand over the hours to the winner of its 'Mera Digital Dash' campaign. The campaign, which was launched earlier this year, aimed to promote the use of digital payments and financial services among the people of the Pacific Islands. The winner of the campaign, who was selected from a pool of participants who had successfully completed a series of digital literacy tasks and challenges, received the hours as the first prize. The event was attended by a number of dignitaries and stakeholders, including the Minister responsible for Telecommunications and Digital Transformation, who congratulated the winner and emphasized the importance of digital literacy in the Pacific Islands. The Minister also expressed his support for the initiative and the role it plays in promoting digital literacy and financial inclusion among the people of the Pacific Islands.

The winner of the campaign, who was overjoyed at the prize, expressed her gratitude to eSawa Money Transfer and the organizers of the campaign for the opportunity to learn about digital literacy and financial services. The winner also expressed her intention to use the hours to further her education in digital literacy and to share her knowledge with her family and community.

eSawa Money Transfer has been at the forefront of promoting digital literacy and financial inclusion in the Pacific Islands through its various initiatives and campaigns. The company has also partnered with various organizations and institutions to promote digital literacy and financial inclusion among the people of the Pacific Islands. The company has also launched a dedicated customer service hotline and a mobile app to provide easy access to its services.

Meta Platform Launches Meta AI, Social Giant Aims to Rival ChatGPT

Meta Platforms, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, has recently launched its new artificial intelligence (AI) platform, Meta AI, which is designed to rival the popular chatbot ChatGPT. The company has been working on the development of Meta AI for several months and has now made it available to its users in the United States and other English-speaking countries.

Meta AI is a conversational AI platform that can engage in natural language conversations with users and provide them with information on a wide range of topics. The platform can also be used to generate text, images, and other multimedia content. The company has also integrated Meta AI into its various social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, to make it easily accessible to its users.

The launch of Meta AI has been seen as a response to the growing popularity of ChatGPT, which has been widely adopted by users and has sparked a lot of interest in the AI community. The company has also been facing pressure from its competitors, such as Google and Microsoft, to develop its own AI platform and to keep up with the latest developments in the field.

The launch of Meta AI has also been seen as a way for the company to diversify its revenue streams and to reduce its dependence on advertising revenue. The company has been facing challenges in the past few years, such as the Cambridge Analytica scandal and the rise of privacy concerns, which have led to a decline in its ad revenue.

The launch of Meta AI has also been seen as a way for the company to improve its image and to regain the trust of its users. The company has been facing criticism for its handling of user data and for its role in the spread of misinformation and hate speech on its platforms. The launch of Meta AI has been seen as a way for the company to address these issues and to improve its image.

PITSTOP RECOMMENDS

Best Brunch Restaurants Near Pitstop Group Premises