

## **CNMI-Broadband**

CNMI-Broadband is a new communications and capacity-building initiative being supported by the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Office of Planning and Development. Started in December 2021, CNMI-Broadband is dedicated to designing and implementing government services for Broadband connectivity and Broadband-related technologies and industries. As expressed by the Comprehensive Sustainable Development Plan, these developing government services will support planning efforts aimed at communications deployment and subsidy programs or community connection hubs to ensure that all residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota have in-home access to the internet through broadband or wireless connection by 2030.

CNMI-Broadband is currently focused several key initiatives: together with our planning partners and stakeholders—residents, businesses, and community organizations—we are assembling a Commonwealth Broadband Strategy that will detail “SMART” goals for broadband implementation over the coming decade. Additionally, CNMI-Broadband is working with federal and state partners to manage and help efficiently allocate new infrastructure funding intended specifically for broadband at the Commonwealth level. Finally, CNMI-Broadband will work to make sure our Community Anchor Institutions—schools, libraries, hospitals, public safety, and other qualifying community groups—have the tools, access, and training they need to leverage the internet and pursue funding for additional broadband-related programs.

Together with its partners, CNMI-Broadband is excited to pursue truly affordable and reliable internet services for all the people of the Commonwealth. These improvements will go a long way to delivering digital equity for the citizens, and address education, employment, and government sustainability goals for 2030 CSDP and beyond.

[CAPTION: Left to right: Deputy Chief Information Officer Joe Torres, OPD Broadband Consultant Peter Dresslar, and Chief Information Officer Clifford Aldan attend the 2022 Pacific Telecommunications Council Summit (PTC'22)]

