

**19th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-19)**

14-16 August 2019, Thimphu, Bhutan

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background/Context**

APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF) is one of the important annual events of the APT where high-level delegates from the policy makers and regulators meet together to discuss on telecommunications and ICT policy and regulatory issues that are of common interest, with the aim of achieving a more harmonized regulatory environment in the region. It is also a platform for the industry to bring issues of their concern to the attention of the regulators. Over 18 years, PRF has been regarded as a high-level event that underlines the important role of the APT in shaping key ICT policies in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 which was adopted at the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT in 2017 has been used as the guideline for APT’s activities for the period 2018-2020. Since 2018, the PRF has focused its work within the five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan: a) Connectivity; b) Innovation; c) Trust; d) Capacity Building; and e) Partnership, and such focus continues for 2019.

The 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-42) approved activities of the APT for 2019 including the 19th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-19). This year’s PRF is aimed at addressing hot policy and regulatory issues of telecommunication/ICT in the region while keeping its focus on the current five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT. Key areas as addressed by those Strategic Pillars including broadband connectivity and access, ICT centric innovative technologies and services, secure and trusted ICT networks and services, human and institutional capacity with basic and advanced ICT skills are also key elements which have contributed to the global trend of the digital transformation which will also be discussed at this forum. The MC-42 also approved Thailand’s proposal to contribute to the “Connectivity” Pillar and share the background, challenges, and recommendations on the initiatives as a reference model for APT Members at this PRF, and to publish a report on the connectivity initiatives to be shared with APT Members.

In addition, since the PRF-19 is held after the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (APT-MM 2019) and the Ministers are expected to adopt the Ministerial Statement, which will be the five-year vision for the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, it is an opportunity for the PRF-19 to discuss the outcomes from the APT-MM 2019.

1. **Objectives**

The overall objective of PRF is to bring high-level telecommunication/ ICT policy makers and regulators in the region together to a common platform for a dialogue on issues faced by them as a result of the changes taking place in the telecommunication and ICT sectors. Digital technologies have changed the way Governments, businesses, and citizens work and live and this is the global trend of digital transformation where the five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT have significant contribution to it. The forum provides an opportunity to share and address key issues of concern to APT Members, as well as to facilitate intra-regional collaboration on policy and regulatory issues as required. Industry leaders and other key stakeholders also share their views on major issues facing the sector.

The specific objectives for PRF-19 are to:

* Share achievements, challenges, lessons learnt regarding connectivity initiatives for unserved and underserved and launch the report on Thailand Connectivity Initiatives “Net Pracharat” as best practice in the region.
* Provide a platform for industry to share their perspective and discuss on the latest trends of telecom services arisen from the fusion of 5G, AI and IoT, regulatory challenges and what industry can contribute towards a connected digital future in the Asia-Pacific
* Enhance understanding on 5G service scenarios and readiness of APT Members for 5G deployment in terms of policy and regulatory issues, national action plan, and spectrum issues
* Create awareness on initiatives, technology, and success story on implementation of national digital ID as key enabler in high-potential sectors
* Share experiences regarding the national policies, strategies, and activities for promotion of digital inclusion as well as policy strategies and approaches in shaping digital transformation
* Enhance understanding of existing international arrangements for cross-border transfers of personal data, best practices, lesson learnt, as well as policies, regulation and strategies and initiatives regarding online safety including Child Online Protection.
* Bring the focus of high-level policy makers and regulators as well as industry leaders of ICT sector in Asia-Pacific region towards to outcome of the discussion as well as key takeaways from the Ministerial Statement adopted by the Ministers at the APT-MM 2019

1. **Expected outcomes**

The agenda of PRF-19 consists of sessions to address the key regulatory and policy issues in telecommunication and ICT development required to be brought into the attention of top policy makers, regulators, and industry representatives of the ICT sector in the region including issues on connectivity, innovation, secure and trusted ICT service, etc. The provisional agenda and tentative programme of PRF-19 are annexed to the Concept Note (See Annex A and B for more information).

Specific outcomes include but not least:

* Common challenges regarding connectivity issues for unserved and underserved are identified, and best practices and recommendations are provided
* Enhanced awareness of policy makers and regulators on trend of emerging services from the fusion of 5G, AI and IoT, as well as their regulatory challenges
* Better knowledge on 5G service scenarios and understanding of its importance in the context of digital transformation as well as policy and regulation concerns, national action plan, and spectrum issues
* Awareness of the importance and trend for the application of National Digital ID, its key technology, and its best practices
* Policies, strategies, and activities for promotion of digital inclusion as well as policies strategies and approach for shaping digital transformation are identified and recommendation for better policy in the digital age are provided
* Better knowledge on existing policies and regulations for cross-border transfer of data, and best practices for policy and regulation on online safety including child online protection
* Understanding the vision of the Ministerial Statement as adopted at APT-MM 2019, its implication, key takeaways and how it can be implemented

1. **Timing and location**

PRF-19 will be held in cooperation with the Ministry of Information and Communications (MoIC) of Bhutan from 14 to 16 August 2018 in Thimphu, Bhutan.

1. **Participation**

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations, and Eligible Non-Members can participate in the Forum. Non-APT members may be invited to participate in the activities of the Forum as Guest at the discretion of the Chairman of the Forum and the Secretary General of APT in consultation with the relevant Member administration as appropriate. Other non-APT members may participate as Observers with the payment of the participation fee.

1. **Contact persons:**

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| **APT Secretariat** | **Local Secretariat** |
| Mr. Pubate Satienpoch  Project Coordinator (Policy & Regulation)  Ms. Supitcha Chansak  Programme Secretary  Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)  12/49 Soi 5, Chaeng Watthana Road  Bangkok 10210, Thailand  Tel: + 66 2 573 0044  Fax: +66 2 573 7479  E-mail: [aptpolicy@apt.int](mailto:aptpolicy@apt.int) | Ms. Ugyen Lhamo  Asst Program Officer  Ministry of Information and Communications  Tel: +9752325419  E-mail: [ulhamo@dit.gov.bt](mailto:ulhamo@dit.gov.bt)  Ms. Chungku  Sr. ICT Officer  Ministry of Information and Communications  Tel: +9752325419  E-mail: [chungku@dit.gov.bt](mailto:chungku@dit.gov.bt) |

**Annex A**

**19th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-19)**

**Provisional Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Election of the Chairman of the PRF
4. Outcomes of the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRF
5. Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
6. Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020
7. Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations
8. Updates on ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019
9. Roundtable on Singapore Statement and its key takeaways
10. Business Dialogue: Fusion of 5G, AI, and IoT
11. Thematic Sessions:
    * + Connectivity initiatives for unserved or underserved – a Case Study on Thailand Connectivity Initiatives “Net Pracharat” and others
      + Towards 5G Deployment
      + Plans and Lessons learnt for National Digital ID
      + National Digital Inclusion for all citizens
      + Shaping Digital Transformation in Asia-Pacific
      + Cross-border Transfers of Personal Data
      + Online Safety and Well-being of citizens
12. Election of Vice-Chairmen of the PRF
13. Date and Venue for PRF-20
14. Any Other Matters
15. Closing

**Annex B**

**19th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-19)**

**Tentative Programme**

| *TIME* | *PROGRAMME* |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Wednesday, 14August 2019** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening**   * Welcome Address – Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT * Welcome Remarks - Chairman of PRF * Inaugural Address – Dignitary of Ministry of Information and Communications / Bhutan *(tbc)* * Presentation of Token of Appreciation   (Group Photograph) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:30 – 11:15 | **Session 1 -** ***Plenary***   * Adoption of the Agenda * Election of Chairman of PRF * Remarks by Chairman of PRF * Outcomes of the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRF * Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 * Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 * Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations * Updates on ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019 |
| 11:15 – 12:30 | **Session 2 - *Roundtable on Singapore Statement and its key takeaways***  *The Roundtable expects vibrant discussion among high-level officials from APT Member Administrations as well as Industry representatives to recap and follow up on the outcome of the discussion at the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 as well as the new Ministerial Statement. The panel will focus on its implications and* *what are the key takeaways for the new Ministerial Statement as adopted at APT-MM 2019*  *Moderator: (tbd);*   * Keynote Presentation on Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, Mr. Charles Chew, CGMM Chairman, IMDA *(tbc)* * Panel Discussion on implementation of new Ministerial Statement * Q&A   ***Panelists:***   * High-level Policy Makers and Regulators from Member Administrations * High-level Industry representatives |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **Session 3 – *Connectivity initiatives for unserved or underserved – a Case Study on Thailand Connectivity Initiatives “Net Pracharat” and others***  *Since Thailand has made substantial progress in implementing a project of ICT infrastructure development called “Pracharat Internet, or Net Pracharat” that provides broadband infrastructure, including free Wi-Fi, to 75,000 villages nationwide, enabling internet access to Thai people across the country. In this regard, Thailand would like to share the background, challenges, and recommendations on the initiatives as a reference model for APT Members as a best practice in the region. This session also invites various players to share their initiatives.*  *Moderator: (tbd)*   * Keynote Presentation on Thailand Connectivity Initiatives “Net Pracharat” by Ms. Ajarin Pattanapanchai, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand * Achievements of Thailand initiatives on connectivity * Key success factors and Lessons learnt from the initiatives * Recommendations to APT Members * Members’ view towards Thailand initiatives * Q&A   ***Panelists:***   * A Representative from MDES/TOT Thailand; * ISOC *(tbc)* * GSMA *(tbc)* * Member Administrations / Industry Representatives |
| 15:15– 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:00 | **Session 4 – *Business Dialogue: Fusion of 5G, AI, and IoT***  *As emerging technologies mature, the fusion of 5G, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and the Internet of Things (IoT) creates new and advanced use cases. This fusion positively impacts all individuals, industry, society, and the economy. The panel session provides a platform for high level industry representatives to share their perspective and discuss on the latest trends of telecom services and plan of the industry in the coming years, regulatory challenges, and what industry can contribute towards a connected digital future in the Asia-Pacific.*  *Moderator: (tbd)*   * What does 5G have to do with AI, and IoT * What are new services users can expect * Regulatory challenges * Q&A   ***Panelists:***   * Affiliate Members |
| 18:00 - | Welcome Reception |
| **Time** | **Thursday, 15 August 2019** |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | **Session 5 – *Towards 5G Deployment***  *After years of hype, 5G is now becoming a reality and it will become one of the important building blocks of digital economy in the coming years. This session will discuss the update of 5G service scenarios and readiness of APT Members for 5G deployment in terms of policy and regulatory issues, national action plan, and spectrum issues.*  *Moderator: (tbd)*  ***Topics:***   * Services, infrastructure, key technologies for 5G * Policy and regulatory issues for 5G * Importance of 5G in the context of Digital Transformation * National Action Plan for 5G * Spectrum for 5G * Q&A   ***Speakers***:   * Member Administrations * Industry Representatives |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee / Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | **Session 6 –*Plans and* *Lessons learnt for* *National Digital ID***  *The UN set a goal of providing everyone on the planet with a legal ID by 2030. Without proof of identity, people may be denied access to rights and services. Numerous new national eID programs were initiated, and Digital ID is one of the most significant technology trends. Digital ID is one of the key enablers in high-potential sector such as finance and commerce, governance, etc. while creating a recognized identity that empowers the individual and is an enabler for socio-economic inclusion. This session will discuss the initiatives, technology, and success story on implementation of national digital id.*  *Moderator: (tbd)*  ***Topics:***   * What is going on regarding Digital ID? * Purpose and usage of Digital ID * Issue and benefit of Digital ID * Blockchain and Digital ID * Best practices and lesson learnt * Q&A   ***Speakers:***   * Member Administrations * World Food Programme *(tbc)* * Industry Representatives |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 7 – *National Digital Inclusion for all citizens***  *It is crucial to promote widespread digital adoption through providing access to telecommunications/ICT for all citizens so that they can participate and contribute in digital economy and society. This require facilitating the spread of the basic ICT skills and digital literacy for the citizens, making ICT more accessible affordable and usable for people with special need, and developing ICT applications and content in local language and contexts to facilitate active participation by citizens. This session will discuss and share experiences regarding the national digital inclusion policies, strategies, practices and activities.*  *Moderator: (tbd)*  ***Topics:***   * Policies, strategies, and activities for promotion of digital inclusion * Bridging digital gender gap * Case of local contents and applications * Q&A   ***Speakers***:   * Member Administrations * Industry Representatives * UNESCO / UN Women *(tbc)* |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee / Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 8 – *Shaping Digital Transformation in Asia-Pacific***  *The promises of digital technologies transformed the way Governments, businesses, and citizens work and live. Broadband Connectivity and access, ICT centric innovative technologies and services, secure and trusted ICT networks and services, human and institutional capacity with basic and advanced ICT skills are key elements contributed to speed of the digital transformation. This session will discuss digital development in APT Members and the policy strategies and approaches that allow governments, businesses, and citizen to shape digital transformation.*  *Moderator: (tbd)*    ***Topics:***   * Keynote presentation from Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) *(tbc)* * Policy dimensions and their opportunities and challenges to shape digital transformation * Recommendation for better policies in the digital age * Assessing of digital development and formulation of policy strategies * Q&A   ***Speakers***:   * A representative of OECD * Member Administrations |
| **Time** | **Friday, 16 August 2019** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Session 9 – *Cross-border Transfers of Personal Data***  *The Internet has become a key enabler for productivity, innovation and it generates huge amounts of data including personal data. The ability to move data across border has become vital and the international data flow has contributed to the growth of the digital economy and the global GDP. As the amount of personal data generated grows, so do concerns from individuals about how their personal data is being used. This session will discuss regulations of cross-border transfers of personal data in Asia-Pacific.*  *Moderator: (tbd)*  ***Topics:***   * Understanding of existing international arrangements for cross-border transfers of personal data * Best practices and lesson learnt; * Recommendations to APT memberships; * Q&A   ***Speakers***:   * Member Administrations * Industry Representatives |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **Session 10 – *Online Safety and Well-being of citizens***  *Internet and social media are influencing lives of citizens and causes potential risk to their safety. In addition, younger generations adopted an “always-on” lifestyle so the attention should also be paid to the impacts on well-being. This session will discuss the policies, regulations and strategies, and initiatives to address secure and trusted ICT service with focus on the online safety and wellbeing of citizens with special consideration given to citizens who may be vulnerable including child online protection*  *Moderator: (tbd)*    ***Topics:***   * Policies and regulations for online safety and well-being * Best practices of Child Online Protection * Q&A   ***Speakers***:   * Member Administrations * Industry Representatives |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:00 | **Session 11 – *Plenary***  *This session will discuss issues on way forward for PRF.*  *Chair: Chairman of PRF*   * Way Forward * Election of Vice-Chairmen of PRF * Date and Venue for PRF-20 * Any other matters   **Closing**   * Remarks by Secretary General of the APT; * Remarks and closing by Chairman of PRF |