**18th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-18)**

8-10 August 2018, Dhaka, Bangladesh

**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.

In November 2017, the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT (GA-14) adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020, which serves as the guideline for APT’s activities for the period 2018-2020. Each work programme of APT including PRF will focus its work within the following five (5) Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan:

1. Connectivity: Developing the digital Infrastructure;
2. Innovation: Enabling conducive environments and harnessing the benefits of new technologies;
3. Trust: Promoting security and resilience through ICT;
4. Capacity Building: Promoting inclusiveness and enhancing expertise; and
5. Partnership: Solidifying strategic cooperation with stakeholders.

This year, the 18th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-18) will be in line with the above five Strategic Pillars of the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020. The forum will address emerging digital technologies trends in the digital economy. Policy makers and regulators will have dialogues on their policies and regulatory practices to take advantage of the potential of the digital economy for innovation and inclusive growth. Representatives of industry will express their views on issues of digital economy with emphasis on the role of industry for materializing the digital economy. PRF-18 will include thematic sessions on SMEs, Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning, and Personal Information Data to identify policy and regulatory implications

Furthermore, in order to prepare for the upcoming Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019, it is proposed that PRF-18 considers establishing a Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (CG-MM) and appointing a Chairman of the Correspondence Group as well as discussing the Terms of Reference, Structure, and Work Plan of the group. Special sessions on the Preparations for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 has been allocated to discuss issues on the preparation for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 including the possible theme. Hence, active contribution from the Members is highly expected.

In addition, PRF-18 will be held in conjunction with the ITU-BTRC (Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission) Asia-Pacific Regulator’s Roundtable to be held on 6 -7 August 2018 at the same venue. This is in line with the “Partnership” Pillar of the Strategic Plan of the APT in maximizing synergies, harnessing resources and minimizing duplication of work through opportunities for cooperation with relevant international, regional and multilateral organizations.

1. **Objectives**

The overall objective of PRF is to bring high-level telecommunications and 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, to provide 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-18 are:

* To bring the focus of high-level policy makers and regulators as well as industry leaders of ICT sector in Asia-Pacific towards the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020.
* To discuss various issues relevant to digital economy including policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities, initiatives to spur the innovation of industry and regulatory issues for resolving for enhancing innovation, and role of industry and APT in building digital economy
* To address innovation topics with specific highlights on SMEs as growth engine of Digital Economy, potential of Blockchain in Digital Economy, benefit of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning, and securing personal data in digital economy
* To prepare for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 including the theme and structure of the Ministerial Meeting as well as to establish the Correspondence Group for the Ministerial Meeting including Terms of Reference, structure and work plan of the Correspondence Group.
1. **Expected outcomes**

The agenda of PRF-18 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 such as issues on connectivity, innovation, secure and resilient network, etc. The provisional agenda and tentative programme of PRF-18 are annexed to the Concept Note (See Annex A and B for more information).

Specific outcomes include but not least:

* High-level views pertinent to the new Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020;
* Better understanding on ICT Policy and Regulatory challenges and opportunities, initiatives to spur the innovation of industry and regulatory issues for resolving for enhancing innovation, and role of industry and APT in building digital economy through roundtable discussions and business dialogue;
* Enhanced understanding on thematic sessions on various programme topics;
* Structure of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 and the establishment of the Correspondence Group for the Ministerial Meeting and its work plan.
1. **Timing and location**

PRF-18 will be held in cooperation with the Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) from 8 to 10 August 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and in conjunction with ITU-BTRC Asia-Pacific Regulators’ Roundtable which will be held from 6 to 7 August 2018 at the same venue.

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 SatienpochProject Coordinator (Policy & Regulation)Ms. Supitcha ChansakProgramme Secretary Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)12/49 Soi 5, Chaeng Watthana RoadBangkok 10210, ThailandTel: + 66 2 573 0044 Fax: +66 2 573 7479E-mail: aptpolicy@apt.int;  | Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Azizur Rahman Siddiqui, psc.Director, Systems & Services, DivisionBangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC)Tel.: +88 096 11111 Ext.410Mobile: +88 015 52202725Fax: +88 029 556677Email: focalpoint@btrc.gov.bd |

**Annex A**

**18th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-18)**

**Provisional Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Election of Chairman of PRF
4. Outcomes of the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT and the 41st Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRF
5. Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020
6. Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations
7. Updates on ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2018
8. Establishment of Correspondence Group for the Preparation of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
9. Roundtable on ICT Policy and Regulatory Trend
10. Roundtable on ICT Regulations to Facilitate Shaping an Innovative ICT Industry Ecosystem in Digital Economy
11. Business Dialogue: The Role of ICT Industry in the Era of Digital Economy
12. Thematic Sessions:
	* + Connecting SMEs Who Are the Growth Engine of Digital Economy
		+ Potentials of Blockchain in Digital Economy
		+ Being Ready to Harness the Benefit of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning?
		+ Securing Personal Information Data in Digital Economy
13. Preparations for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
	* + Establishment of Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (CG-MM)
		+ Identifying possible theme for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
14. Date and Venue for PRF-19
15. Any Other Matters
16. Closing

**Annex B**

**18th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-18)**

**Tentative Programme**

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| **Time** | **Wednesday, 8 August 2018** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening** * Welcome by Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) / Bangladesh *(tbc)*
* Welcome Address – Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT
* Welcome Remarks - Chairman of PRF
* Address – Representative of ITU *(tbc)*
* Inaugural Address – Dignitary of Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology / Bangladesh *(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 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT and the 41st Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRF;
* Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020
* Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations
* Updates on ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2018
* Establishment of the Correspondence Group for the Preparation of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
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| 11:15 – 12:30 | **Session 2 - *Roundtable on ICT Policy and Regulatory Trend****The Roundtable will invite high-level policy makers and regulators and representatives of Intergovernmental organizations to address regional ICT policy and regulatory challenges and opportunities in Digital Economy**Moderator: Wonki Min, Chairman, OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy, Leading Professor, SUNY (The State Univ. of New York) Korea;** Keynote Presentation on Digital Economy, Wonki Min, Chairman, OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy; Leading Professor, SUNY (The State Univ. of New York) Korea;
* Panel Discussion on ICT Policy and Regulatory Trends;
* Q&A

***Panelists:**** High-level Policy Makers and Regulators;
* Representatives of Intergovernmental Organizations
 |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **Session 3 – *Roundtable on ICT Regulations to Facilitate Shaping an Innovative ICT Industry Ecosystem in Digital Economy*** *The Roundtable expects vibrant discussion among the representatives from public and private. High-level officials from Member Administrations would introduce their initiatives to spur the innovation of industry while representatives of industry identifies the regulatory issues for resolving for enhancing innovation* *Moderator: (tbd)** Panel Discussion on ICT Regulations to Facilitate Shaping an Innovative ICT Industry Ecosystem in Digital Economy;
* Q&A

***Panelists:**** High-level Policy Makers and Regulators;
* Industry representatives
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| 15:15– 15:45  | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:00 | **Session 4 – *Business Dialogue : The Role of ICT Industry in the Era of Digital Economy****The panel session provides a platform for high level industry representatives to discuss the issues of Digital Economy with specific emphasis on identifying an industry role for building it as well as the role of APT.**Moderator: (tbd)** Industry Views on Role of Industry and APT for Building Digital Economy;
* Q&A

***Panelists:**** Industry representatives
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| 18:00 -  | Welcome Reception hosted by BTRC / Bangladesh |
| **Time** | **Thursday, 9 August 2018** |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | **Session 5 – *Connecting SMEs Who Are the Growth Engine of Digital Economy*** *For SMEs to go digital a coherent approach is required. This includes the initiatives to deploy infrastructure and the promotion of its adoption as well as fostering innovation around its use. This session intends to discuss how to ensure setting up a sound ecosystem for SMEs.* *Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** initiatives to ensure the access and use of digital services;
* How to develop competitive, resilient and innovative SMEs;
* Identifying good practices and sound policy analysis to foster an enabling environment;
* Q&A

***Speakers:**** APT Member Administrations;
* Industry Representatives
 |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee / Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | **Session 6 – *Potentials of Blockchain in Digital Economy*** *Blockchain is*[*secure by design*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secure_by_design)*and exemplifies a distributed computing system with high*[*Byzantine fault tolerance*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine_fault_tolerance)*.*[*Decentralized*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decentralized) *consensus has therefore been achieved with a blockchain. Hence Blockchain has been used for crypto currencies such as Bitcoin, Ethereum, etc. This session intends to provide understanding of Blockchain and its impact to the Digital Economy.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Understanding the Blockchain and its policy and regulatory implications;
* Use cases of Blockchain;
* Q&A

***Speakers:**** Industry Representatives
* Member Administrations
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| 12:15 – 14:00  | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 7 – *Being Ready to Harness the Benefit of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning?*** *Large amount of data created by various mobile platforms, social media interactions, e-commerce transactions, and IoT provide an opportunity for businesses to effectively tailor their services to their customers. In this context, this session will discuss the policy and regulatory implications of Artificial Intelligence and machine learning.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Use cases of AI and Machine Learning;
* Policy and regulatory implications;
* How to tackle down the regulatory challenges into the proper legislation;
* Q&A

***Speakers***:* Industry Representatives
* Member Administrations
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| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee / Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15  | **Session 8 – *Securing Personal Information Data in Digital Economy****Data will be a key elements for the components of Digital Economy, such as infrastructures, services, platforms / ecosystems and devices. The data without doubt includes personal information which requires mindful approach to secure. This session will discuss the measures how to secure the personal information data in day-to-day business operation and through appropriate legislations.* *Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Challenges in securing personal information data including digital identification;
* EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and APEC Cross Border Privacy Rule (CBPR);
* Best practice of industry and/or Member administrations;
* Q&A

***Speakers***:* Industry Representatives;
* Representatives of APEC;
* Member Administrations
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| **Time** | **Friday, 10 August 2018** |
| 9:00 - 10:15 | **Special Session** –  ***Preparations for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019*** *The special sessions will discuss on key issues in preparation for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019 including establishment of the Correspondence Group for the preparation of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, the possible theme of the meeting, etc.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Appointment of Chairman of the Correspondence Group;
* Adoption of the TOR and Work Plan of the Correspondence Group
* Objectives of the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting
* Structure of the meeting and draft preliminary programme
* Discussion on a possible outcome of the Ministerial Meeting
* Arrangement for the APT Ministerial Meeting by the host
* Possible theme of APT ICT Ministerial Meeting

***Speakers***:* APT Secretariat;
* Member Administrations
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| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 - 12:00 | **Special Session** – ***Preparations for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (Cont.)*** |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **Special Session** – ***Preparations for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (Cont.)*** |
| 15:15 – 15:30 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:30 – 16:00 | **Session 9** – ***Plenary – Way Forward****This session will discuss issues on way forward for PRF** Way Forward
* Date and Venue for PRF-19;
* Any other matters;
	+ Celebration of the 40th Anniversary of APT
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| **Closing*** Secretary General
* Chairman PRF
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