



ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY

TOKYO DECLARATION

AND

ACTION PLAN

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ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY
APT Asia-Pacific Summit on the Information Society
31 October – 2 November 2000, Tokyo, Japan

TOKYO DECLARATION

***Asia-Pacific Renaissance through
ICT In the 21st Century***

Preamble

The Ministers for information and communications of member countries of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), gathered in Tokyo for the Asia-Pacific Summit on the Information Society, held from 31 October to 2 November in the first year of the new millennium.

Ministers held fruitful discussions on issues related to information and communications technology (ICT). These included means to bridge the digital divide and make the most of digital opportunities, taking into account the proposals from the private sector made at the round-table discussion that preceded the ministerial meeting. Ministers shared the view that it is necessary to take initiatives to unite efforts of all concerned and to tackle ICT-related issues, so that a sound information-based society is established which respects the diversity of the Asia-Pacific region. With this understanding, Ministers adopted the Tokyo Declaration on "Asia-Pacific Renaissance through ICT in the 21st Century".

Ministers also discussed action to be taken to create an information-based society, and adopted an Action Plan together with the declaration. Ministers expect that the Action Plan will be implemented without delay, and that APT will play a leading role in its implementation.

Forming a Shared Vision

1. ICT is a vital engine for the development in the twenty-first century. As can be observed in the explosive diffusion of the Internet, ICT has demonstrated enormous power to change economic structures and greatly contribute to economic prosperity and a better quality of life. ICT can also enable greater freedom and enrich people's lives through broadening their choices and supporting social, welfare and cultural activities. In the Asia-Pacific region, which enjoys a rich and vibrant cultural heritage, we should understand and respect the diversity of cultures and make efforts to ensure that, through international co-operation, ICT is used to promote cultural development within all traditions.
2. Equally, we must strive to give every citizen access to communication tools, so that the opportunities and benefits brought by ICT can be shared by all and individuals can be given new ways to demonstrate their creative abilities. In order to promote economic, social and cultural development and achieve affluent coexistence among countries in the Asia-Pacific region, both the private and public sectors should co-operate in all fields to strengthen the foundations of ICT.

Bridging the Digital Divide

3. To enable everyone to reap the benefits of ICT, we should strive to bridge the digital divide, between and within nations, that separates those with easy access to network resources, especially the Internet, and those without. With the remarkable progress in ICT, which might be called an ICT revolution, issues concerning the digital divide and convergence have become increasingly broad and complex. We must take immediate action to tackle these issues, because of their tremendous and multiple impacts on nations and individuals.
4. In the Asia-Pacific region, besides the gaps in use of ICT caused by differences in a person's income, age, gender or physical disability, there are also significant gaps between countries, between urban and rural areas, and between industrial sectors. It is necessary to adopt different measures to bridge each gap appropriately. In this regard, it is useful to exchange and share information on various relevant activities in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as to effectively co-ordinate initiatives in this field with the growing activities to tackle the digital divide that are being undertaken in other parts of the world.

Developing Information and Communication Infrastructure

5. In order to establish an information-based society in which everyone can obtain the benefits of the ICT revolution and

take advantage of the numerous opportunities it brings for the development and prosperity, we must take immediate steps to develop the necessary infrastructure that will provide access to such resources as the Internet.

6. An effective way to promote the balanced development of Information and communication infrastructure in the Asia-Pacific region, with its geographic and economic diversity, is to utilize different technologies and equipment according to local conditions, as well as to take account of changes such as technological convergence.
7. Investment in the development of Information and communication infrastructure is one of the areas in which the private sector has a vital role to play. Therefore, governments should work to create an environment that encourages private-sector participation, such as by establishing transparent legal frameworks. At the same time, in situations where the private sector finds little incentive for investment, the participation of the public sector is indispensable in developing vital infrastructure. In such cases, it is essential for governments to take the lead in promoting infrastructure development, with international support, if required. Meanwhile, international co-operation is essential in such fields as standardization or management of radio frequencies that are needed for cost-effective and efficient development of Information and communication infrastructure.

Essential Applications for the Information Society

8. In order to allow ICT to provide the benefits of speedier and more efficient economic and social interaction, it is essential to develop various applications. We should encourage the administrative use of ICT particularly through e-government and e-commerce to help improve the efficiency of business and public services including in rural areas. The quality and variety of content is also of great importance to the information society. To encourage more people to join online activities in the Asia-Pacific region, special emphasis should be placed on the promotion of applications that are useful for various languages, such as translation as well as development and distribution of contents that reflect local cultural or linguistic characteristics. In all these development efforts, we must pay attention to the protection of intellectual property rights and social harmony.
9. Security and reliability of online communications is another important element needed to establish a sound information society. Crimes such as hacking, the spread of computer viruses, the misuse of personal data and the circulation of indecent information, are serious threats to the stability of ICT-based economies, as well as a danger to society and particularly to the young. To overcome these problems, we should co-operate in sharing information among countries and in co-ordinating their efforts to prevent cyber crime and to ensure security. We should also co-operate on the protection of privacy and ethical issues.

Human Resource Development and Enhancement of ICT Literacy

10. As ICT rapidly penetrates wide areas of social and economic activities, we must find ways to make sure that every citizen has at least the basic skills needed to fully participate in the information society. It is our vital and urgent task to enable people to use ICT in their daily lives, at the same time we must increase the number of skilled personnel in advanced areas of ICT. We should give high priority to human resource development in the field of ICT and to the enhancement of ICT literacy in the population as a whole.
11. In addition to each country's promotion of advanced training in ICT for researchers or engineers, the Asia-Pacific region as a whole should strengthen co-operation in exchanging personnel or conducting joint research on subjects of common interest and benefit. At the same time, regional exchanges of information should take place regarding the enhancement of ICT literacy. Each country should also promote measures to help people of every age, background and location and level of physical ability to acquire these skills.

12. Human resource development is essential for sustainable social and economic prosperity, and activities that use ICT itself, such as distance learning, can be of great help in human resource development. Various programs in this field should be conducted in co-operation with educational organizations, taking account of the economic, social and cultural diversity of the Asia-Pacific region. We should also encourage development of appropriate technology to help combat illiteracy, as well as to help those with special needs, such as the hearing impaired.

Regional Co-operation and Global Co-ordination

Regional Co-operation

13. It is important for all countries to co-operate in seeking solutions to ICT issues, in order to establish an information society that respects economic, social and cultural diversity. In this regard, APT, as the leading international organization for telecommunications in the Asia-Pacific region, should strengthen its function as a regional forum for policy co-ordination and for coping with emerging aspects of ICT. This will greatly assist the Asia-Pacific region to present a coherent voice in global efforts to tackle ICT issues. The financial and professional resources of the APT should be enhanced for this purpose.

Global Co-operation

14. Since the ICT revolution has global effects, it is important to include not only regional but also global co-operation in our perspective. Because action has started around the world aimed at bridging the digital divide, it is necessary to effectively co-ordinate activities in the Asia-Pacific region with global activities or those of other regions. For this reason, APT should strengthen its co-operative relationships with other international organizations such as the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), which is the focal point for global telecommunication policy co-ordination; the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which works for economic and social development in the Asia-Pacific region, the United Nations, and various international bodies such as the OECD and the Digital Opportunity Taskforce (dot force), which the G8 Summit agreed to establish at its 2000 meeting. Relationships with countries and organizations outside the Asia Pacific region, private sector entities and relevant NGOs should also be strengthened.

Target for Internet Access “Phase One”

15. We Ministers declare that we will do our best, in both domestic efforts and through international co-operation, to enable people in the Asia-Pacific region to have access to the Internet by the year 2005 to the extent possible, including access from public facilities such as schools and post offices.

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ACTION PLAN

*for the Asia-Pacific Renaissance
through ICT In the 21st Century*

ICT

creating a successful information society based on a person to person networks

Recognizing that in order to establish in the Asia-Pacific region an information society in which all can enjoy the benefits of information and communications technology (ICT) various issues must be tackled immediately, Ministers adopted the following Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific Renaissance through ICT. Ministers will make every effort to implement the Action Plan as soon as possible, aiming with the priority on achieving the Internet access for people in the Asia-Pacific region by 2005 to the extent possible.

Forming a Shared Vision

1. Member administrations should recognize that ICT, including the Internet, has the power to bring about enormous changes in every sector of the economy and society and to provide many benefits. Therefore, member administrations should form a shared vision to give high priority to using ICT as a national agenda. They should also share this common understanding with leaders of

every sector in their countries, as well as with citizens and communities. Along with these efforts, in each member country the public and private sectors should co-operate to promote relevant activities.

2. Having formed a shared vision of ICT for the Asia-Pacific region, member administrations and APT should promote international co-operation on ICT policy issues, and APT should strengthen its function as a regional forum in this regard.

Bridging the Digital Divide

3. To give everyone the opportunity to have access to ICT as soon as possible, member administrations should promote the establishment of ICT access points in each community at public facilities, such as post offices or schools, following the model of the Multipurpose Community Telecenters (MCTs) promoted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
4. Member administrations should make efforts to promote pilot projects that help to enhance ICT literacy and to diffuse electronic commerce in rural areas. APT should develop and make available a database of experiences in this field in the Asia-Pacific region.
5. Member administrations should promote the development of ICT equipment designed for elderly or disabled people or the socially under-privileged, such as mobile terminals.

6. APT should continue to consider measures to overcome the problems of the digital divide and to promote digital opportunities for achieving economic and social development by using ICT. For this purpose, APT should launch regional, sub regional and country projects on a priority basis.
7. To establish effective co-operation with the activities of other international bodies in bridging the digital divide, including considering ways to encourage more participation from the private sector, APT should make efforts to share information and knowledge on this issue with other international organizations.

Developing Information and Communication Infrastructure

8. For the improvement of Internet access, member administrations should encourage the introduction of mobile and satellite systems, the adoption of new technologies into access networks such as FTTH, xDSL as well as FWA, and the development of broadband backbone networks.
9. Member administrations should promote standardization of ICT both to enable the interconnection and interoperability of infrastructure and to minimize the cost of its development. In this regard, each administration should promote standardization within its borders, as well as participating in the activities of the APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) and the APT Conference Preparatory Group for WRC (APG).

10. Member administrations should participate in international joint research and experiment in the Next Generation Internet (NGI) and promote their smooth implementation.
11. Member administrations should make efforts to transfer technology between developed and developing countries.

Essential Applications for the Information Society

12. Through sharing their experiences, member administrations should promote e-government, so as to improve public services and to enhance peoples' participation in the community.
13. Recognizing that tele-medicine and distance-learning are useful tools in overcoming the difficulties of geographic conditions in the Asia-Pacific region, member administrations should promote the development of relevant applications in these fields.
14. Member administrations should promote the development of content that reflects the various languages and the diversity of cultures of the Asia-Pacific region.
15. Member administrations should promote the development of applications useful for various languages in the Asia-Pacific region, such as translation applications.

16. Member administrations should improve the environment for online economic activities, through such measures as establishing laws on electronic signatures and authentication of network users' identities. Member administrations should also promote their mutual recognition of electronic signatures and authentication procedures, as well as the exchange of information on security technologies, and consider introducing an APT initiative to help countries spread electronic commerce.
17. Member administrations should promote international cooperation on security in cyberspace, including the prevention of cyber crime.
18. Member administrations should aim to take measures to protect users' privacy on information networks, and prevent the circulation of indecent or illegal information.

Human Resource Development and Enhancement of ICT Literacy

19. To develop, introduce and share new ICT in the Asia-Pacific region, member administrations should consider ways to nurture the development of researchers and engineers in this field, by sharing knowledge of advanced ICT and exchanging staff among institutions of higher education and research. APT should facilitate the implementation of such projects.

20. Member administrations are encouraged to establish centers of excellence which are adequately equipped in their respective countries to promote advanced training and research on ICT. Member administrations should assist each other by offering experts, knowledge, systems, and equipment to the extent possible. APT should actively assist in facilitating such arrangements as well as in networking the said centers of excellence.
21. To help the development of human resources effectively in response to the rapid progress of ICT, APT should improve its current training programs and develop a database of the training it provides, so as to make it better known and to ensure its more effective implementation. Furthermore, APT should consider how to implement effective new training programs in the areas of policy-making, regulatory issues and applications, including Electronic Commerce in addition to the training it already offers in ICT technologies and infrastructure.
22. Member administrations should formulate and implement programs to enhance ICT literacy among the general population, making use of ICT access facilities established in each community in such public facilities as schools or post offices.
23. Using distance learning, member administrations should expand opportunities for training or education for people living in remote locations.

24. Member administrations and APT should strengthen co-operation between the public and private sectors in developing human resources and improving ICT literacy, as well as international co-operation.

Regional and Global Co-operation

Regional Co-operation

25. In line with the concept of the Asia-Pacific Information Infrastructure (AII), member administrations and APT should pursue activities to promote the regional development of information and communication infrastructure, and reconsider the role of the AII meeting in order to review the implementation of the Tokyo Declaration and this Action Plan. Also the Executive Director of APT should keep the Ministers informed about progress in the implementation.
26. To strengthen its function as a regional forum for policy co-ordination, APT should expand its activities on emerging ICT-related issues, such as bridging the digital divide, development of applications, electronic commerce and prevention of cyber crime. APT should plan and implement regional, sub regional and country projects for this purpose on a priority basis.

27. To promote standardization in the field of telecommunications, as well as co-ordinate policy on the management of frequencies in the Asia-Pacific region, member administrations should give stronger support to the activities of ASTAP and APG.
28. APT members should also explore the possibility of establishing a trust fund for creating a successful information society based on person to person networks.

Global Co-operation

29. Since the establishment of APT in 1979, it has supported and collaborated with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). For example, APT has supported such ITU achievements as adoption of Recommendation on "International Internet Connection". This co-operative relationship between the two bodies is important in meeting the global challenges of the ICT revolution. In this regard, APT should contribute to the World Summit on the Information Society, planned by the ITU for 2003.
30. The enormous changes caused by the ICT revolution have led to calls for the ITU to make itself more efficient and flexible, as well as to calls for the reform of APT. APT strongly supports appropriate reforms of the ITU, particularly those that will impact on the development of the Information Society in the Asia Pacific region, taking into consideration the attached concept paper on ITU Reform.

31. To harmonize regional progress in ICT, APT should strengthen its relationship with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), which works for the economic and social development of the region. APT should organize annual international conferences for the member administrations to facilitate regular and timely exchange of information and knowledge.
32. APT and member administrations should promote co-operation and share experience with other international organizations to take effective and well-co-ordinated action aimed at bridging the digital divide. Especially, they should promote co-operation with the Digital Opportunity Taskforce (dot force), which the 2000 summit of G8 nations agreed to establish, through frequent exchange of information on the ICT situation and activities in the Asia-Pacific region.
33. APT and member administrations should further promote co-operation with the private sector, through appropriate international forums, as well as co-operation with relevant activities of NGOs.

ITU REFORM

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for telecommunications and traces its origins back to 1865. Throughout its long history, the ITU has had to evolve to adapt its role to new technologies and services. However, with the accelerating pace of change in the telecommunications industry, reform of the Union has become of vital importance. Reform of the ITU, if it is to be effective, must take account of the major and profound trends sweeping through the industry. These trends include the convergence of new technologies, the emergence of open and competitive markets for telecommunications networks and services. In many countries, the telecommunications sector has shifted from a monopoly structure to a community of interests that includes governments and network operators, as well as equipment and service suppliers. The majority of the world's telecommunications are now provided by firms that are largely privately-owned.

To better meet the needs of its membership and of the telecommunications sector, reform at the ITU should draw upon the following principles:

- The three traditional missions of the ITU, namely management of the radio frequency spectrum, adoption of global standards for telecommunications and development, need to be adjusted to better meet the urgent needs of industry and of the developing world.
- The nature of the public/private sector partnership at the ITU should be redefined to better reflect the growing role of the private sector in the modern, competitive telecommunications environment.
- The ITU should give increased emphasis to policy matters, by serving as a center of expertise and as a focal point where global discussion and coordination can help to facilitate harmonization of different national policies and rules, including issues related to Internet and e-commerce within its areas of competence.
- The present rigid, federal structure of the ITU, with its three sectors, should be reviewed with the aim of facilitating a more comprehensive approach to technical, operational and policy issues, so as to provide integrated solutions to the changing demands of its membership.

- The work methods and procedures of the ITU, including the number and types of meetings, should be re-engineered to promote more timely and effective results and rapid action on pressing matters.
 - The introduction of more flexible and modern management tools would serve to enhance the executive authority of the Secretary-General and spur greater efficiency in the Secretariat.
-