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|  | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document:****PRF-18/OUT-01**  |
| **18th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-18)** |
| 8 – 10 August 2018, Dhaka, Bangladesh | 19 October 2018 |

Secretary General

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 18TH APT**

**POLICY AND REGULATORY FORUM (PRF-18)**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 18th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum was held from 8 to 10 August 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The meeting was hosted by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Bangladesh.

The meeting was attended by 160 participants from APT Members, Affiliate Members, International Organization, other organization and the APT Secretariat. Document PRF-18/ADM-03 contains the list of participants of the meeting.

1. OPENING SESSION *(Wednesday, 8 August 2018, 9:30 – 10:15 hrs.)*
	1. **Welcome by Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Bangladesh**

Mr. Md. Jahurul Haque, Chairman of BTRC welcomed all delegates to Bangladesh. Bangladesh as the largest LDC country in terms of skilled human resource and economic size is a nation who is in same pace with UNs, MDGs, and SDGs goals to continue its devout strive towards national development and global capacity building. Bangladesh looks forward to sharing its experience and learning from other countries for further development of the telecom sector. He highlighted the goals of Bangladesh as regional hub of Telecomunication/ICT and the benefit from the successful launch of a new satellite. He wished the forum successful and wish international participants to enjoy Bangladesh. The full text of his address is provided in Document PRF-18/INP-01.

* 1. **Welcome Address by Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity**

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT delivered the Welcome Address. She mentioned that APT PRF is one of the premier annual events of APT. She then talked about five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 which was adopted at GA-14. APT would focus its work within these five Strategic Pillars during these three years. She highlighted important sessions at this PRF including Roundtables, Business Dialogue, thematic sessions, and special session for preparation for Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 and the relevant activity. She wished successful discussion during the programme. The full text of her address is provided in Document PRF-18/INP-02.

* 1. **Address by Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, Asia and Pacific, International Telecommunication Union**

Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, Asia and Pacific, ITU delivered an address. He thanked the host and APT for organizing the meeting back to back with ITU-BTRC Regulator Roundtable. He highlighted the successful discussion during the Regulator Roundtable including impact on digital revolution which brings rapid transformation to economy and society. Significant change is taking place in telecommunication and ICT market place. As policy makers, regulators, government agencies, and industry it is necessary to recognize and invest the need to be in sync with the evolved world and aware of the changing landscape. He congratulated Bangladesh for successful launch of a new satellite in May this year. The full text of his address is provided in PRF-18/INP-03.

* 1. **Welcome Remarks by Chairman of PRF**

Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Vice-Chairman of PRF from Sri Lanka, on behalf of Mr. Kingsly Fernando, Chairman of PRF delivered the address. She highlighted the importance of PRF to provide a platform for policy makers, regulators, and industry for discussion on common policy and regulatory issues. She highlighted the achievement for the discussion during the last PRF-17 in Sri Lanka, and the importance of the discussion for this year which included topics on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, as well as preparation for Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting. She wished the forum success and fruitful deliberation. The full text of her address is provided in PRF-18/INP-04.

* 1. **Address by Mr. Shyam Sunder Sikder, Secretary, Post and Teleommunications Division, Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh**

Mr. Shyam Sunder Sikder, Secretary, Post and Telecommunications Division, Bangladesh delivered an address. He mentioned that PRF is not only a place for the administrators to discuss their common issues, but also a venue for them to listen to the concerns of the stakeholders, who are the heart of the telecom industry. He emphasized the importance of 3C which are Cooperation, Coordination, and Collaboration. He talked about Vision 2021 which aims at developing Bangladesh into a resourceful and modern economy through efficient use of information and communication technology or as described by the Prime Minister as Digital Bangladesh. He then highlighted programmes undertaken by the government to create a Digital Bangladesh. He wished the meeting fruitful discussion. The full text of his address is provided in PRF-18/INP-05.

* 1. **Inaugural Address by Honorable Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh**

Honorable Mr. Mustafa Jabbar, Minister of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, Bangladesh delivered an inaugural address. He welcomed all delegates to Bangladesh. He talked about Bangladesh joining as a Member of ITU in 1973, establishment of the first satellite ground station in 1975, and successful launch of satellite this year. He highlighted the achievement of the Prime Minister to successfully change the whole scenario of growth for economic and connected Bangladesh to Digital Economy. He talked about industrial revolutions and highlighted about transforming from “e” to “digital”. He discussed the challenges in policy making and explained about some policy in telecommunication in ICT. He highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration. It took thousand years to transform from agriculture civilization to industrial civilization, hundred years to change one stage of industrial revolution to another, but now it takes only years to change the whole scenario. Implication of 5G will come to change everything, create challenges and opportunity. Bangladesh is determined to lead the 4th industrial revolution, not staying behind, and not being left behind. It was a great honor for Bangladesh to host this event and to learn from others.

1. SESSION 1 - PLENARY *(Wednesday, 8 August 2018, 10:30 – 11:30 hrs*.*)*
	1. **Adoption of Agenda *(Doc. PRF-18/ADM-01)***

Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Vice-Chairman of PRF introduced the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting. She sought comments on the document. As there was no comment, it was adopted.

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| **Decision No. 01 (APT PRF-18)** |
| Plenary adopted the Agenda of PRF-18 as proposed in document PRF-18/ADM-01. |

* 1. **Election of Chairman of PRF**

Secretary General referred to the Working Methods of PRF. It stated as followed: “The Chairman will be nominated by the Forum each year on a consensus basis where possible from the host country of that Forum and hold office until the next Forum. If there is no hosting country, the Chairmanship will remain with the existing Chairman”

Secretary General informed the meeting that the Government of Bangladesh nominated Mr. Md. Rezaul Quader, Honorable Commissioner, Engineering & Operations Division, BTRC as the candidate for the Chairman of PRF.

Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Vice-Chairman of PRF sought the approval of the meeting. With the acclamation of the meeting, Mr. Md. Rezaul Quader was elected as the new Chairman of PRF and would continue his chairmanship until the next PRF meeting in 2019.

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| **Decision No. 02 (APT PRF-18)** |
| Plenary elected Mr. Md. Rezaul Quader as the new Chairman of PRF. |

Mr. Md. Rezaul Quader, the new Chairman of PRF made a short remark about his chairmanship and presided over the meeting.

* 1. **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 *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-07)***

Secretary General briefly presented the important outcomes of the 14th Session of the General Assembly of the APT (GA-14) and the 41st Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-41) relevant to PRF. She highlighted that GA-14 took note on the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting which would be held in 2019, and the celebration of 40th Anniversary of APT. MC-41 adopted the report of the PRF and approved the holding of PRF-18 in 2018.

The meeting noted the outcomes of GA-14 and MC-41 relevant to the work of PRF.

* 1. **Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-08)***

Dr. Jongbong Park, Director Project Development, APT informed that Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 was uploaded as document PRF-18/INP-08. Due to time limitation, he encouraged members to go through the document for more information.

The meeting noted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020.

* 1. **Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-09 to INP-12)***

Chairman informed that the Vice-Chairmen had provided updates on Sub-regional issues on policy and regulation from Southeast Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and Pacific sub-region as document PRF-18/INP-09 to INP-12 respectively, and encouraged members to go through the document for more information.

* 1. **Updates on ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2018 *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-13)***

Mr. Sameer Sharma, Senior Advisor ITU, presented updates on the 18th edition of the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-18). He provided information on reports, papers, and series for discussion during GSR-18 which included AI for development series, discussion paper on setting the stage for 5G, and release of the 2017 edition of the ICT regulatory tracker. He further explained the GSR-18 best practice guidelines on New Regulatory Frontiers to Achieve Digital Transformation. GSR-19 will be held from 9 to 12 July 2019 in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

* 1. **Establishment of the Correspondence Group for the Preparation of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-14)***

Secretary General provided background information and the reason for including an agenda item on Preparation for Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 to be discussed at PRF-18. The proposal was to ask the meeting to consider the establishment of Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (CGMM), its Terms of Reference, Work Plan, and relevant issues such as Theme and Expected outcomes. The proposal was similar to what PRF-14 had done for the Ministerial Meeting in 2014 in order to follow the same practice as in PRF-14 at this PRF-18.

Secretary General then put forward the document for the PRF-18 to consider and agree in principle. The detailed discussion would be done during special session on the last day.

Chairman sought for agreement of the meeting to approve the establishment of the CGMM in principle with a note that the ultimate approval of the establishment would be made by the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-42) in October 2018 in Mongolia.

As there was no comment, the meeting approved the establishment of the CGMM.

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| **Decision No. 03 (APT PRF-18)** |
| PRF-18 approved in principle the establishment of Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019 (CGMM) where the ultimate approval of the Correspondence Group to be made by MC-42 in Mongolia. |

1. SESSION 2 – ROUNDTABLE ON ICT POLICY AND REGULATORY TREND (*Wednesday, 8 August 2018, 11:30 – 12:45 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Wonki Min, Chairman, OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy, Leading Professor, SUNY (The State Univ. of New York) Korea

* 1. **Keynote Presentation on Digital Economy *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-15)***

Mr. Wonki Min, Chairman of OECD Committee on Digital Economy Policy and Leading Professor, SUNY (The State Univ. of New York) Korea made a keynote presentation on Digital Economy. The presentation highlighted how digital technologies were radically changing people lives. The ongoing digital transformation of economies and societies holds many promises to spur innovation, generate efficiencies, and improve services, and in doing so boost more inclusive and sustainable growth as well as enhance well-being. The OECD “Going Digital Project” aims to bring stronger and more inclusive growth from the digital revolution by building a coherent and comprehensive policy approach. Going Digital includes horizontal analysis, moving beyond policy silos: an Integrated Policy Framework, and work across the OECD focused on specific policy areas, as well as well as in-depth work on some key policy questions. The presentation then covered 7 Vectors of Digital Transformation, overarching messages of the project, and key outputs and milestones of the project.

* 1. **Panel Discussion on ICT Policy and Regulatory Trend**

Moderator requested Bangladesh and Malaysia to share their thought and address ICT policy and regulatory trends, challenges and opportunities in Digital Economy.

Brig. Gen. Shahriar Ahmed Chowdhury, Director General, Systems and Services Division, BTRC, Bangladesh made a presentation on ICT Policy and Regulatory Trend. He introduced concept of Digital Bangladesh and Vision 2021 in achieving middle income status by 2021 by leveraging ICT. He then explained relevant laws, rules and policy formulation along the way toward 2021 including ICT policy 2009 which had been later amended to ICT policy 2015, and ICT policy 2018. He then talked about regulatory trends, present status of Telecom sector in Bangladesh, Telecom Industry trend by 2020 and beyond, challenges in the telecommunication and ICT industry, opportunities in telecom services, digital innovation’s impact in telecommunications, and Mobile Financial Service in Bangladesh.

Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Chief Officer, Corporate Strategy, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Malaysia made a presentation. She talked about the digital demands for the infrastructure created by the people, and highlighted some emerging technologies where policy makers and regulators need to know in order to be able to put up policy or to regulate. In her presentation, it also covered issues such as what do regulators need to regulate in the future and what do they suppose to regulate today that they haven’t, boundaries with other economic sectors, the scope and responsibilities of the regulators, regulation in a borderless world and a holistic approach for regulation. Security breaches and data breaches would be increased if digital economy get really good. She also raised ethical questions such as, who will be responsible if robot kill or hurt someone, who to regulate robot, who to regulate autonomous vehicle?

Moderator posted questions to Thailand regarding the most pressing challenges for the digital economy and asked for recommendations for other Members, and asked Vanuatu to share on success they had made in the country as well as difficulty and failure.

Dr. Kajit Sukhum, Assistant Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES) replied that MDES was just 3 years old and was first established as MICT. It was decided that the Ministry could not stay on only ICT, but had to look at other aspects including benefit to the society and economic as well, so Thailand changed the name of the Ministry as well as its objective. The pressing challenges are skill and people who knows about digital technology. The most important for government in developing country or LDC is that they lack those who understand the development and the growth of these technologies. He also raised the issue on the global network of laws which is applicable and can be enforced wherever fraud or crime happen, and however it’s connected. His recommendations regarding the things that governments should be aware and ready were that they have to: be ready to change structure of the organization; aim high and try to predict what would happen and try to have law and regulation ahead of the things that would happen; be facilitative to projects and to have Sandbox policy whereby new project can be put in sandbox which is outside regulatory framework and see if that policy or regulation work; be Persistent as a ministry to continue the policy and make sure it continue developing and don’t change half way; and not only look for friends but look at friends and ask for knowledge sharing.

Ms. Dalsie Baniala, Regulator, Telecommunication and Radiocommunication Regulator (TRR), Vanuatu shared that telecom market was liberalized in 2008, and 3 policies were approved by government i.e. National ICT policy, Universal Access policy, and cyber security policy with no other framework. First they had to consult with stakeholders, got them on board and worked together. Topology of separate islands in the ocean made it difficult. There were issues such as what kind of approach would be effective, what they should focus on. Vanuatu focus was on the access. The legislation came along liberalization. In 2018, they have achieved 90.8% of the policy for the population coverage, 95% of text through broadband 3G, and around 100% satellite broadband. Then they had to look back whether Policy achievement get to the need of the people.

Government together with the donors agreed to move forward with reviewing not regulatory framework but the whole industry development and to find out Effectiveness in term of regulatory, international Gateway, as well as policy mandate. There were a lot of discussion on digital transformation and working with stakeholders including ministry of trade, financial regulators and other important stakeholders. Current focus are ages, as they have provided access to citizens. Vanuatu had high rate of illiteracy that’s where previous focus was on. They set up computer emergency response team, and working to get cyber legislation, and cyber regulation. This will also help other islands country how to move forward.

Moderator asked panelists to emphasize any points they want to raise. Some key highlights were:

* Government sector should look at assistant from private sector who understand technology better;
* The reasons to regulate are : for consumer protection; to monitor for quality of service; and to look at national security;
* Collaboration with other sectors is important so that regulator can regulate properly, and Industry collaboration is also an important issue;
* Infrastructure is the first important part for Digital Economy, then allow innovation and take care of security issue;
* Regulators should try to move along with operators for innovative initiative;
* Technology evolvement is a global pressure which cannot be escaped, and policy makers and regulators need to learn from each other experience and from own experiences at national level, and consider for improvement in respective area in policy regulation;
* Consumer protection is important where we all need consider.

Moderator thanked all panelists for their contributions and highlighted key issues which were essential for digital transformation i.e. role of government, importance of human resource development, consumer protection, building infrastructure, and working together with industry.

1. SESSION 3 – ROUNDTABLE ON ICT REGULATIONS TO FACILITATE SHAPING ON INNOVATIVE ICT INDUSTRY ECOSYSTEM IN DIGITAL ECONOMY *(Wednesday, 8 August 2018, 14:00 – 15:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Ilyas Ahmed, Chief Executive, Communications Authority of Maldives

* 1. **Panel Discussion on ICT Regulations to Facilitate Shaping an Innovative ICT Industry Ecosystem in Digital Economy**

Moderator highlighted the questions posted to panelists on the fundamentals and key characteristics of ICT industry ecosystem in Digital Economy, the role of policy makers and regulators in Digital Economy, the innovative approaches to shape the ICT industry ecosystem in Digital Economy, and the role of APT and the expectation by the Industry and Policy Makers in this context.

Mr. Lin Xiao, Director, Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, China replied that digital technology and information are key production factors that use digital technology and innovation as core driving force, and adopt modern information network as a vehicle to enhance the digital and intelligent network of traditional industry at accelerated economic development. China promoted in deep integration of big data, AI, and digital economy and make overall deployment of digital transformation of China’s economy. A lot of policy have been formulated since 2015. Some region in China has actively implemented decision and promote acceleration of Digital Economy. China Digital Economy has developed fast and contributed about a quarter of its GDP and this trend would go on.

Mr. S.K. Mishra, Principal Advisor, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), India mentioned that Telecommunication, broadcasting, everything are becoming digital. This happened for the last 15 years. Some country are phenomenal but some are ways behind. Nobody sure about how 5G will be there. Pricing of spectrum is more uncertain, things are changing in a short time, and business is not the same. Three years ago there were some consultation on OTT and there were a lot of comments. Operators were afraid that OTT would kill them and asked regulators to stop and regulate them, but now they don’t ask any more. Telco has problem how to remain alive in the competition. Mobile phone was a luxury product in the old day but now it has been changed. Everybody don’t even have house also have a phone. If operator don’t give them quality service or cheaper service, they are ready to leave. In all these years, ICT ecosystem has become primitive in many country. Every service relied on ICT ecosystem and cannot do without it. Revenue models have changed such as free voice, charge only data. Voice revenue are down.

Mr. Mohammed Shahedul Alam, Head of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs, Robi Axiata Shahedul mentioned that the term Digital Economy is widely used but in one way it is Internet economy. The framework of digital economy is the infrastructure where Digital highway have to be built so that many of the service can ride on the Digital Highway. On the software side the ecosystem need to be built and ensured that there is the resource that they can manage big data, and involve in Blockchain. For consumer side it should be economical for them to use the service. As mobile operator, they have already accepted the global norm that OTT has a role in digital ecosystem and they have to work together. Digital ecommerce policy approved by the government was the good step that government can harness from digital economy. He raised the issue that three operators which are foreign own cannot engage in digital platform and they are restricted to enter into the market because the policy issue. From his observation, restriction or barring of certain entity is not work. Ecommerce platform is global platform like amazon, Alibaba. In Bangladesh, digital ecommerce that have been approved barred those companies coming to the country unless they have a local partner. From various perspective, telco are barred from ecommerce, mobile financial service, and sometime cannot even build their own fiber. Talking about Digital Economy is talking about restricted Digital Economy where there is many restriction in this globalize world in this open economy. This is where policy makers have to be aware and reconsider the position so that they can actually and really seriously honestly deliver digital economy to consumer.

The panelists discussed widely on the subjects including whether regulators focus more on regulation for more facilitation, the most important ingredients that is missing in order to build digital economy, and role of APT and expectation in term of promoting digital economy. Key points noted from the discussion:

* It is important for regulator to have a meeting with operators to discuss on issues of their concern. Growth of the sector and protection of consumer interest is the main function. Sector consist of operator and they have to be taken care of.
* Main factors of digital economy are innovation and integration. Two parts of digital economy are digital industrialization where innovation is key point, and Industrial digitalization which is the integration part that has been gradually developed.
* The missing factors are trust and smart policy. Various framework and encouraging more digitalization have been discussed but policy should be in place to endure that those are facilitate.

Robi Axiata commented that there are many industries and regulators working under APT and a lot of cooperation can be done, and data privacy plays an important role. Regulator have to facilitate those issues like privacy and how can we open up society so that consumer get the benefit. One important component of Digital Economy is that, In order to ensure customer confidence, the data privacy have to be ensured. APT is requested to have at least a common data privacy guidance so that we all can share the matter data, not private customer data so that industry and other players can flourish. APT is requested to work in collaboration with industry so that they can give input to APT to jointly enhance to the regulator so that there will be digital economic framework from where the industry can actually flourish from benefit of the consumers.

Secretariat responded to the comment by Robi that APT has conducted a research on data privacy guideline to survey situation in member countries. Only 13 out of 38 put in place data governance legislation. APT together with Republic of Korea Administration and some industry members are developing guideline and it would be published soon.

Moderator concluded that the roundtable discussed on how to facilitate Digital Economy, what are the role of policy makers and regulators, what are the things that they should do, how can regional and international organizations help in promoting new technologies, and thanked all panelists for their participation.

1. SESSION 4 – BUSINESS DIALOGUE: THE ROLE OF ICT INDUSTRY IN THE ERA OF DIGITAL ECONOMY *(Wednesday, 8 August 2018, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Tenzin Dolma Norbhu, Head, Connectivity and Access Policy, APAC, Facebook

* 1. **Industry Views on Role of Industry and APT for Building Digital Economy**

Moderator highlighted that Industry is an important stakeholder in digital economy and she would ask panelist to share on current industries activities that support digital economy, and to share from their experience key challenges that country, government, industry faces for digitization effort, and finally share some recommendations for government to consider in order to address these challenges.

Mr. Rahul Shah, Head of Mobile 4 Development programmes, GSMA was asked to share on how digital economy can be fostered in a variant market of APAC and some perspective on mobile industry role in digital economy ecosystem. He replied that a few things which are foundation for digital economy are connectivity, Digital ID, Digital Payment, and citizens that are capable and incentivized to participate in the digital economy. Key challenges are lack of ID, level of connectivity, affordability, lack of relevant content, energy to power the site, access to the energy, financial inclusion, lack of trust, hesitant to participate, and strong policy on consumer protection is required. Recommendation was that policy must take into account for inclusion, focusing on digital literacy. Operators by themselves cannot educate people, and it requires cross organization partnership,

Mr. Taimur Rahman, Chief Corporate & Regulatory Affairs Officer, Banglalink Digital Communication Limited was asked to share thought on how government, of Bangladesh in particular, can help evolve the country into a vibrant digital economy, and to share on what telecommunication industry role has been in the digital Bangladesh effort. He replied that ICT and Telecom are not different anymore. The transition is happening and how do we cope with that is important. More than 80 million people in Bangladesh is less than 25 years old and they are the one who are going to use technology. They don’t have landline facilities so the first phone they get is mobile, and using data from the mobile phone. The growth happen in the last 7 years was enormous. As ICT industry they need to make sure that telecom service is easy to use and affordable for them. The enabler for them to success are government vision, including the right policy, the right regulation, and proper infrastructure.

Mr. Tare Brisibe, Senior Legal and Regulatory Counsel, Asia-Pacific, SES World Sky was asked to share on key role of satellite in supporting digital economy. He replied that SES operate fleets of satellites. MEO provides multi-terabit high performance connectivity comparable to terrestrial network. They also provide security, resilience and network efficiency which enable customer to offer ranges of service to whole community, and to provide service to plane, ship, as well as cellular backhaul service. Satellite is part of an ecosystem bringing value into end to end solution for customer offering. It constitute a part of digital economy which it contributes toward seamless transition into eventual 5G based digital economy. He also addressed challenges related to regulatory procedure.

Mr. Hu Wang, Head of Radio Spectrum Policy, Huawei Technologies was asked on China’s approach to Digital Economy development and some of the key factors that supported widespread mobile internet adoption in China. He replied that China is large country, development of ICT infrastructure in China is summarized as the middle country compare to other countries. China is doing 5G quite well in some areas in digital economy particularly mobile communication based aspect. There are many interesting mobile application used by end user for example taxi sharing, bike sharing, etc. World Largest money market fund is in China by subsidiary of Alibaba. By adopting mobile communication technology, China transformed some of Industry and service sector, transportation, financial, tourist. There are a number of factor behind including a good coverage of mobile network, reasonable price to end user. These two points are critical for end user perspective. He also addressed important points for 5G development including Cross industry sector cooperation and spectrum planning for 5G.

The panelists discussed widely on the subjects including the price of spectrum, spectrum auction, transforming from supply driven mass market to deliver demand driven digital telecom service.

Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah from Malaysia asked panelists to indicate top 3 keys focus area that should be focusing on in immediate future from 11 key areas from APEC Digital Economy roadmaps. Keys focus indicated by the panelists are developing digital infrastructure, facilitating free flow of information and data, enhancing trust and security, develop holistic policy framework, promote coherent and regulatory approach, facilitating e-commerce and advancing digital trade.

Key highlights from the discussion are as follow:

* Industry is willing and ready to partner on fostering Digital Economy across APAC region
* There is a lot of challenges including connectivity, identification, access to other type of infrastructure, digital literacy, and regulatory frameworks,
* It is required to look into collaborative regulation so that can bring different parts , different sectors that currently have a silo approach together to holistically address issue such as data protection
* the need to have an openness in the way to allow Satellite Company to be able to participate in helping connectivity use case across country, which need policy and regulator approach, and spectrum planning.

Moderator thanked all panelists and looked forward to more opportunity for regulator dialogue, and hope that some of the messages that being out could be translated into the right policy and the right approaches.

1. SESSION 5 – MAKING CONDUCIVE ECOSYSTEMS FOR SMEs WHO ARE THE GROWTH ENGINE OF DIGITAL ECONOMY *(Thursday, 9 August 2018, 15:45 – 17:15hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Charles Chew, Director (International), Info-communications Media Development Authority, Singapore

* 1. **Towards a Conducive Ecosystem for SMEs Bangladesh’s Perspective** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-16)*

Brigadier General Mustafa Kamal, Director General, Engineering and Operation Division made the presentation on the topic. He highlighted overview of SME and its description. His presentation discussed important roles of SME including driver of innovation and employment generation, and then discussed key features of modern SMEs, potentials and challenges of SMEs, and conducive environment for the SMEs to go digital. Step towards digitizing SME including improving Infrastructure (Optical Fiber Cable network and Satellite), making SME competitive and resilient, fostering innovation, having legal and policy framework (such as SME credit policy, Hitech Parks), and human capital development

* 1. **Providing ICT Access and Digital Services in the Countryside** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-18)*

Ms. Madonna Estrelles, Planning Officer, Department of Information and Communications Technology, the Philippines delivered the presentation. She introduced the status of ICT use in the Philippines and overview of Philippine MSMEs. Government-wide initiatives is to have more globally competitive MSMEs that are regionally, integrated, resilient, sustainable, and thereby performing as key drivers of inclusive Philippine economic growth. Strategic Goals are improved business climate, improved access to finance, enhance management and labor capacities, improved access to technology and innovation, and improved access to market. Finally she talked about DICT eGMP Building Blocks, impact stories, and future plans.

* 1. **Presentation from BASIS**

Mr. Syed Almas Kabir, President, Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services talked about SME from the Industry perspective focused on Software and IT Service Company where 95% are SMEs. He talked about important things that are required by SME including affordable office space, access to finance, good management, Capacity building, Legal support, Intellectual Property right, and Marketing. BASIS work with government hand in hand to create growth ecosystem. Government must promote these SMEs by procuring their services. Private company will not buy product from SME without proven record, and government support in procurement for ICT service and product from local SME. Role of government cannot be denied. The government support is the primary condition for the growth.

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on digital skill required in order to tackle the Digital Economy, and whether those digital skills that are readily available in the market to be employed. Some key highlights are:

* There is a gap between academia and industry everywhere especially for ICT industry. University should take input from industry and adopt those in the curriculum to ensure employability after graduation without wasting of time for extra training.
* For other sectors than ICT, digital skill is not needed and may need only a few computer. Not much computer skill is needed.

Moderator also suggested idea for further discussion at the next PRF such as how could SME get out and compete with big companies given that they have limited track record, limited financing; how could government come in to help level playing field; what is industry requirement and how could they work in partnership. Cybersecurity is also an important issue for SME, and security by design is something to think about. When SME start implementing or adopting digitalization, they need to also think at the back of their mind about cybersecurity and make sure that when talking about data, those are adequately protected as part of initial design and not something that they think about later or even after the attack happen.

1. SESSION 6 – POTENTIALS OF BLOCKCHAIN IN DIGITAL ECONOMY *(Thursday, 9 August 2018, 10:45 – 12:15hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Sanghun Lee, Director of Planning and Management, Presidential Committee on 4th Industrial Revolution, Republic of Korea

* 1. **Blockchain Industry Policy and the Prospects – Korean Practice** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-21)*

Mr. Kangsoo Song, Senior Researcher, Korea Internet and Security Agency, Republic of Korea presented the document. Blockchain is one of the promising technologies of Industrial Revolution 4.0. It can be combined with various industries to enhance efficiency and create new economic values. It has characteristics of participation and consensus which could be applied in many public services provided today. For its unchangeable and traceable character, it is promising to apply on tracing agriculture product. The presentation also discussed current status and diagnosis of the domestic and overseas Blockchain ecosystem, invigoration of the Blockchain industry, and expected benefits.

* 1. **Blockchain Use Cases and How We Can Expand the Utilization of the Techonology** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-20)*

Mr. Toshiya Cho, Senior Evangelist and Managing Director, Financial Information Systems Sales Management Division, Hitachi, Japan presented the document. He mentioned that even though we can find many PoCs using Blockchain technology, not so many practical use cases can be found. In his presentation, he introduced Hitachi’s Blockchain Initiative and Hyperledger which is an open source collaborative effort created to advance cross-industry Blockchain technologies. Blockchain allows multiple parties to securely interact with the same universal source of truth. Areas of application are expanding from financial industry to other industries. The presentation then discussed some obstacles that had been witnessed in PoCs as well as in use cases and major points to expand the utilization of Blockchain.

* 1. **Understanding Blockchain Policy and Regulatory Implication** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-19)*

Mr. SM Ashraful Islam, Executive Vice Chairman of eGeneration Ltd and former Executive Director of Bangladesh Computer Council, Bangladesh presented the document. The Blockchain is an incorruptible digital ledger of economic transactions that can be programmed to record not just financial transactions but virtually everything of value. Blockchain are built from three technoliges i.e. Private Key Cryptography, P2P Network, and Program (the Blockchain protocol). It is revolutionary because of distributed digital information (not copied) and distributed database (no central control). His presentation then discussed about disruption, what is coming for blockchain, and some issues.

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on the topic including the benefit of Blockchain, implementation of Blockchain, privacy issues, etc. Some key highlights are:

* Blockchain technology is new and no one has an experience. To implement Blockchain, do not be a prospector but have be an actor.
* Blockchain is very new and it has to be regulated someway. To use Blockchain more efficiently in public sector, the data itself should be protected properly.
* Dirsruptions are coming and people are innovating. Government thinking in conservative way will not lead innovation. There was a dark room no light, how do we regulate dark room? Let the room lighted first then come to regulate. This can be a new way to move forward.
* Hyperledger Fabric framework deal with privacy issue, and allow the participants to share very limited information. The people who make the transaction only know the whole information, other participants can identify only part of information.
	+ Usage of biometrics will raise the level of security.
	+ Privacy is one of the key issue to prevail the utilization of blockchain technology. Many companies are dealing with raising the level of privacy and it will take some time for development.
* Blockchain is still in immature stage and not suitable for real time transaction at this moment. It should be applied not to realtime based transaction but batch processing. Technology will going on and in the long run such problem will be solved.
1. SESSION 7 – SECURING PERSONAL INFORMATION DATA IN DIGITAL ECONOMY *(Thursday, 9 August 2018, 14:00 – 15:30 hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Nur Sulyna Abdullah, Chief Officer, Corporate Strategy, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), Malaysia

* 1. **Protecting Data in a Borderless World – EU GDPR and APEC CBPR roundup** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-22)*

Ms. Noelle Francesca de Guzman, Regional Policy Manager in Asia-Pacific, ISOC presented the document. EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) harmonizes data privacy laws across Europe. It adopts a rights-based, consent-driven approach that gives users more control over their personal data. It automatically comes into law in all 28 EU member states. APEC Cross-border Privacy Rules (CBPR) is a voluntary, accountability-based system to provide a baseline protection for personal information as e-commerce grows and more data is transferred across borders. The presentation then highlighted key characteristics of both EU GDPR and APEC CBPR. Key differences between GDPR and CBPR are that: GBPR is Mandatory while CBPR is Voluntarily, GBPR controls individual while facilitates trade, and GBPR affects the whole world while CBPR affects 21 economies in APEC.

* 1. **Free talk by Fiber@home**

Mr. Sumon Sabir, CTO Fiber@home mentioned that people are providing data to many people every day via social media, email, etc. Those data are personal data and most of them are private. If they can be used, use have the right to know the reason for data going to be used. There are challenges in many forms including security and security breach. How do we protect data in the transit path? Storage, carriage, and how the data flow have impact on integrity of the data. IoT, Big Data, Cloud system, all these things people get huge amount of data generated every day from different thing. It can be used for different purpose. If the data is traversed from one place to another, it has to be sure that data is protected and integrity. At present context 80% data of Internet is encrypted. End to end there is encryption nobody can breach and get data easier. That become the concern of many government. Everyone has a role to play in securing data, not just those who control and process but including policy maker, regulator, and individual.

* 1. **Free talk by Grameenphone**

Mr. Hossain Sadat, Director, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Corporate Affairs Division, Grameenphone, Bangladesh mentioned that Digital Economy (DE) is economic activities resulted from connectivity among persons, customer, process, device, etc. Through this process data is generated and it plays vital role as the key enabler in Digital Economy driving economic growth. Key stakeholders are customers who received customized service, and in order for operators to do that they need customer data. In DE, single private entity is very difficult to carry on and partnership has a better chance to survive. Sharing data is restrictive and cannot be done without consent. Regulator was urged to bring supportive regulation so that company can share data in a controlled and safe manner. Data should be shared in a manner that individual could not be singled out or identified

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on the topic including pilot initiative for Facebook to reach out to Grameenphone’s customer to promote and get them into Internet usage, public awareness for giving own’s information and not maintaining the privacy of his own information, example on how the mobile application such as Google use personal data and provide useful information to the user, right to be forgotten, The meeting also discussed on the data protection law and separate data protection authority where India is looking to establish one, and Malaysia had one.

1. SESSION 8 – BEING READY TO HARNESS THE BENEFIT OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) AND MACHINE LEARNING? *(Thursday, 9 August 2018, 15:45 – 17:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Dr. Shahjahan Mahmood, Chairman, Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company Limited and Former Chairman, BTRC

* 1. **Harnessing Artificial Intelligence, with Responsibility** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-25)*

Mrs. Ambika Khurana, Director, Public Policy, Netflix presented the document. Her presentation focused on how Artificial Intelligence is leveraged to serve customers with content and quality of service they desire. The presentation also included critical dimensions of responsibility, highlighting voluntary self-regulation that specific organisations promote, while handling data, content and customer services.

* 1. **Being Ready to Harness the Benefits of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-26)*

Lt. Col. Mohammad Azizur Rahman Siddiqui, Director, Systems & Services, BTRC Bangladesh presented the document. The presentation talked about paradigm shift from Industrial Society (Do things - Product) to Information Society (Do things right - Process) to Intelligent Society (Do right things – Decision), then discussed about relation between AI and Machine Learning, its use cases such as data security, personal security, healthcare, personalized marketing, financial trading, online search, fraud detection, etc. There are policy and implications on economic and social issues, safety and security, privacy, ethics, development, legal, and international cooperation. Challenges of AI and ML include issues on Job, privacy, building trust, software malfunction, etc.

* 1. **How Do the Governments of Developing Countries Prepare for Artificial Intelligence?** *(Doc. PRF-18/INP-27)*

Mr. Sanghun Lee, Director of Planning and Management, Presidential Committee on 4th Industrial Revolution, Republic of Korea presented the document. AI is now present everywhere in the world. Every government is seeking ways to harness the benefits of AI while reducing its negative impacts on society. The impact of AI on humanity includes job displacement, privacy & data protection, ethical controversies, etc. The impact of AI on developing countries includes lesser investment and fewer jobs, falling further behind in development, and growing in equalities. The presentation then discussed some ideas that is worth considering for developing countries to prepare for AI with an example for the use case of Korea.

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on the topic. With AI and ML, there will be an increase in productivity and loss of jobs, paradigm of job will change, and different kind of job will be created. Human’s judgement is much stronger than machine. The meeting also discussed IPR related issue, such as who own the right of the song if it is composed by AI. Legal approach of government should be prudential. Nowadays, there is a lot of data and AI technique, regulator should be prepared for this technique to be used in the coming day.

1. SPECIAL SESSION – PREPARATIONS FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC ICT MINISTERIAL MEETING 2019 *(Friday, 10 August 2018, 9:00 – 11:30 hrs.)*

Chair: Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT/ Mr. Charles Chew, Chairman-designate of CGMM

* 1. **Nomination of Chairman of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019**

Secretary General referred to the discussion on the establishment of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 during the first session of the Plenary at PRF-18. She informed the meeting that the Government of Singapore, in particular Info-communications Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA) as host of the Ministerial Meeting nominated Mr. Charles Chew, Director International to be Chairman of the Correspondence Group and the proposal would be submitted to MC-42 for approval. The meeting welcomed Mr. Charles Chew, Chairman-designate of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019. Secretary General invited Mr. Charles Chew to chair the special session.

Mr. Charles Chew, CGMM Chairman-designate, thanked the meeting to support his designate appointment as Chairman of CGMM. He made a short address and then chaired the discussion.

* 1. **Discussion on Preparations for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019**

The meeting discussed the draft Terms of Reference of CGMM including scope of work, expected outputs and timeline of the CGMM. The meeting noted that there would be two (2) physical meetings of CGMM around January and April 2019 and there would be one senior officials meeting (SOM) one day prior to the Ministerial Meeting. The meeting widely discussed the priority areas, possible theme, and the proposed date of the Ministerial Meeting, which was planned to be held on 21 May 2019. However, after the meeting, the Secretariat would send an email to APT Members to nominate representatives to the Correspondence Group to share their challenges and concerns to enable smooth preparation for the Ministerial Meeting. The summary of discussion was attached to this summary record.

The meeting noted that the outcomes of discussion on the preparation of the Ministerial Meeting would also be submitted to MC-42 by the APT Secretariat.

1. SESSION 9 – PLENARY – WAY FORWARD *(Friday, 10 August 2018, 11:30 – 12:00 hrs.)*

Chair: Mr. Md. Rezaul Quader, Chairman of PRF

* 1. **Way Forward**

Chairman informed the meeting the agenda items to be discussed at this session. He then opened the floor for discussion for the way forward and for suggestion of future programme. There was no comment from the floor. PRF-19 would continue the discussion on topics suggested during the thematic sessions in the previous day.

* 1. **Date and Venue for PRF-19**

Secretary General informed the meeting that PRF-19 was tentatively scheduled in the third quarter of 2019 and Secretariat would submit the proposal for MC’s approval. Secretariat would coordinate with Members to consider hosting PRF-19.

* 1. **Any other matters – Celebration of 40th Anniversary**

Secretary General informed the meeting that APT will be 40 years old in 2019. Since there would be Ministerial meeting in 2019, therefore Ministerial meeting would also commemorate the 40th anniversary of APT. For the celebration, Secretariat had proposed to GA-14 that APT would try to have all Work Programmes from January 2019 to contribute to the celebration. Therefore all Work Programmes in 2019 would join the celebration of 40th anniversary. Secretary General also invited Members who would like to join the celebration to inform Secretariat on their activities to be a contributed for 40th anniversary of APT.

Chairman thanked Secretary General and opened the floor for discussion on any other matters. There was no comment. Chairman then proceeded for Closing.

1. CLOSING

Chairman of BTRC delivered closing remark. He highlighted the importance of discussion, dialogue and knowledge sharing among stakeholders including policy makers and regulators. He thanked APT and Minister of Posts, Telecommunications, and Information Technology for their supports, and thanked all delegates for accepting the invitation and made the event successful. He also thanked the staff of BTRC who ensured the event ran smoothly. He thanked all for participation and wished them safe journey home.

Secretary General delivered closing remark. She highlighted the achievements including the new Chairman, and important discussions during three days including the preparation for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019. She thanked all speakers, moderators for each session, and Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of PRF for their support. She thank the host, BTRC, for outstanding hospitality, and all staff of BTRC for their support.

Chairman of PRF delivered closing remark. He thanked all moderators for their support and thanked all panelists for accepting invitation to take part in the forum. Their active participation and collaboration made the event successful. He highlighted the importance of PRF as a platform for a dialogue among policy makers, regulators, and industry, and outlined key discussion at this PRF. He thanked APT Secretariat for the support, and BTRC team for organizing the event and ensured the event ran smoothly. He thanked all for participation and wished them safe journey home. He then declared the PRF-18 closed.

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**Attachment**

**Summary of discussion on the**

**Preparation for Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019**

1. **Introduction**

At the 18th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-18) held from 8 to 10 August 2018 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, the meeting initiated the process for the preparation for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019. The meeting discussed the establishment of Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 including the terms of reference of the Correspondence Group. A special session was organized to discuss in details the preparation for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019.

A special session was organized at PRF-18 to discuss the preparation for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019.

Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen of the Management Committee of the APT also participated at this meeting.

The summary of discussion was outlined in the following sections.

1. **Establishment of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019**

At the first session of the Plenary of PRF-18 on 8 August 2018, the meeting discussed the establishment of the Correspondence Group for Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 as provided in document: PRF-18/INP-14.

Secretary General informed the meeting that the document provided background information for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting to be held in 2019 and proposed that PRF-18 consider the establishment of Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (CGMM) and its Terms of Reference that included the scope of work, expected outputs, Chairmanship, and timeline of the CGMM. The process was similar to what PRF-14 had done for the Ministerial Meeting in 2014. Initially, the Secretariat planned to discuss the preparation of the Ministerial Meeting at PRF-19 to be held in 2019. However, since the Ministerial Meeting was planned to be held in the first half of 2019, it would be more appropriate that the preparation process would start in 2018 at this PRF-18.

PRF-18 agreed in principle the establishment of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 and its Terms of Reference with a note that the ultimate approval of the establishment would be made by MC-42 in October 2018 in Mongolia. It was noted that the special session of PRF-18 on 10 August 2018 would discuss more details on the preparation for the Ministerial Meeting in 2019.

1. **Nomination of Chairman of the Correspondence Group for Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019**

During the special session on 10 August 2018, Secretary General referred to the Terms of Reference of the CGMM on the Chairmanship section, which stated as followed: “4.1 Chairman of the CGMM will be nominated by the host country of the Ministerial Meeting in consultation with the Secretary General of APT”.

Secretary General informed the meeting that the Government of Singapore, in particular Info-communications Media Development Authority of Singapore (IMDA) as host of the Ministerial Meeting, nominated Mr. Charles Chew, Director International to be Chairman of the Correspondence Group and the proposal would be submitted to MC-42 for approval. The meeting welcomed Mr. Charles Chew, Chairman-designate of the Correspondence Group of the Ministerial Meeting 2019. Secretary General invited Mr. Charles Chew to chair the special session.

Mr. Charles Chew, CGMM Chairman-designate, thanked the meeting to support his designate appointment as Chairman of CGMM. He mentioned that Singapore was honored to host the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019 and would endeavor to do its best to ensure that the programme ran to the Members’ satisfaction and address the need of APT Membership, and all Ministers collectively able to have a good and robust discussion on the topics of the day and any burning issues that they had.

1. **Terms of Reference of the Correspondence Group for Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019**

Secretary General informed the meeting that the information contained in the draft Terms of Reference had been prepared according to the expected timeframe for the Ministerial Meeting in June. However, APT Secretariat had been informed that the time for the Ministerial Meeting might be shifted to 21 May 2019 proposed by host country, Singapore.

Secretary General further outlined important timeline for activities. Two physical meetings of CGMM were proposed to be held and the second meeting would be held in April 2019 so that Members would have at least one month before the Ministerial Meeting to seek internal clearance for the draft Ministerial Statement. A senior officials meeting (SOM) would be held prior to the Ministerial Meeting to finalize all issues for the preparation. After the meeting (PRF-18), APT Secretariat would send an email to Members asking for comment, and expected member to nominate member of CGMM by next month. Formal approval of the Terms of reference of CGMM would be by MC-42 in Mongolia.

CGMM Chairman-designate emphasized that CGMM would work as far as possible through correspondence. Two physical meetings were to work out on issues that really need the CGMM to meet physically to discuss. It was important that all APT memberships provide representative to CGMM.

The meeting agreed to revise the draft Terms of Reference to be submitted to MC-42 for approval. The document was attached as Annex1 to this summary of discussion.

1. **Possible Theme of the Ministerial Statement and Priority Area**

CGMM Chairman-designate highlighted that various terms such as Statement, Agenda, and the Ministerial Statement had been used for the outcome of the previous Ministerial Meetings. For the Ministerial Meeting in 2019, the term of the outcome was still being discussed between Singapore and the APT Secretariat.

CGMM Chairman-designate invited Members to suggest the possible theme to the CGMM discussion. The meeting suggested that some key words that could be considered were “Intelligence”, “Digital Economy”, “Asia-Pacific”, “Digital Transformation”, and “SDG”.

Bangladesh, Republic of Korea, and Papua New Guinea provided some thought on the theme of the Ministerial Meeting:

* *“Intelligent Digital Economy”* (based on the changes from Smart to Intelligent as AI and Machine Learning are now in every aspect of ICT and Digital Economy);
* *“Shaping Future of Asia-Pacific Through Digital Transformation”*;
* *“Achieving Sustainable Development Goals through ICT”*

The meeting widely discussed on the priority areas. Bangladesh, Bhutan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vanuatu provided their inputs. The priority areas suggested included:

* Trust,
* Governing digital data (Data Privacy, Security of Data; Free flow of data);
* Inclusiveness;
* Digital Economy (Infrastructure, privacy, cybersecurity, skills);
* Cybersecurity (including cybercrime);
* Investment on Infrastructure;
* Digital Skills;
* Digitalization of MSMEs

CGMM Chairman-design mentioned that there were some issues in the past statement that had not been fully achieved. The Ministerial Statement or Agenda was a collective decision that needed ministerial push to give new emphasis or to redirect to a particular angle. There would be some new issues and some reformulation of existing challenges. The statement would be visionary, which would be passed to us to shape the strategic plan to see what would be the step bring us to the target. He welcomed views from APT Members via email or at face-to-face meetings.

1. **Tentative Programme of the Ministerial Meeting**

The meeting was informed that host country plans to organize the Ministerial Meeting on 21 May 2019. CGMC Chairman-designate explained that there would be a senior official meeting 1 day before the Ministerial Meeting. Singapore expected a week long activity called “Smart Nation Innovation Week” from Saturday 17 May 2019 to the following Friday 23 May 2019, and would like to place this Ministerial Meeting to this one week long event, and tie it to the Ministerial Forum that would be organized in Singapore called “Straits Digital Exchange”.

Straits Digital Exchange is an event which was called “Ministerial Forum on ICT” or “Ministerial Forum on ICM” in the previous years. Since both events would be tied together, so Singapore wished to invite all APT Minister to stay on and attend Straits Digital Exchange” which was not limited to Ministers from APT Members but also from other regions. Straits Digital Exchange was Singapore led Ministerial event, while APT Ministerial Meeting was our collective flagship event. In essence Minister would have 2 days consecutive Ministerial events.

He highlighted that the programme should contain review of Brunei Darussalam Statement but it would depend on our discussion what would be the theme.

In consideration for the date, there was lots of difficulties. Two important things were considered, which were to find a slot where the week long activity would not coincide with large international ICT event, and not conflict with other event that Singapore would be hosting. Some delegations might have some concerns since the proposed date was in holy month of Ramadan.

There was a comment from Members, if the total programme could not be shifted before or after of the holy month of Ramadan, the meeting time should start from 9 am until 3 pm. CGMM Chairman-designate replied that the comment would be taken into consideration.

1. **Hospitality provided by host country**

CGMM Chairman-designate explained the hospitality package provided to APT Members to attend the Ministerial Meeting and stay on to Straits Digital Exchange, as follows:

* Return Air tickets (1 Business Class ticket for Minister and 1 Economy Class ticket for Senior Official);
* Hotel Accommodation (Suite for Minister and Deluxe Room for Senior Official);
* Local Transportation; and
* Liaison Officer

Annex 1

(Draft) **TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE CORRESPONDENCE GROUP**

**FOR THE ASIA-PACIFIC ICT MINISTERIAL MEETING 2019**

1. **Scope of work**

The Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019 (CGMM) will work on the following:

* 1. develop and review the draft Ministerial Statement and draft Press Release to be submitted to the Senior Official Meeting of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019 (Ministerial Meeting)
	2. review the provisional agenda and tentative programme of the Ministerial Meeting
	3. advise APT secretariat on any other matters related to the Ministerial Meeting
1. **Expected Output(s)**
	1. A draft Statement of the Ministerial Meeting
	2. A draft Press Release of the Ministerial Meeting
2. **Participation**
	1. APT Members and Associate Members may participate in the work of CGMM
	2. Chairman of the CGMM may invite non-Members for advisory capacity in consultation with the Secretary General of the APT
3. **Chairmanship**
	1. Chairman of the CGMM will be nominated by the host country of the Ministerial Meeting in consultation with the Secretary General of APT
	2. The Chairman will serve its chairmanship until the group dissolved
4. **Meetings**
	1. CGMM should work through correspondence means as much as possible
	2. Physical meeting(s) can be arranged in order to facilitate the discussion, if budget permits and agreed by the Management Committee
5. **Life span of the CGMM**
	1. CGMM should be dissolved after the Ministerial Meeting concludes
6. **Role of the APT Secretariat**
	1. Organize CGMM meetings
	2. Provide and maintain email reflector(s) for the CGMM
	3. Provide necessary secretariat support required by the CGMM
7. **Timeline**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Tasks** | **2018** (month) | **2019** (month) |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| CGMM establishment (@PRF-18) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| members nomination of CGMM  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| MC formal approval of CGMM (@MC-42) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To discuss possible theme  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To determine theme for MM (@MC-42)  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To discuss outline of the Statement |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To develop the 1st draft Statement  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1st CGMM physical meeting  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1st draft Statement consultation with members |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To develop the 2nd draft Statement at the 2nd CGMM physical meeting |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2nd draft Statement consultation with Members |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To submit inputs to the Senior Official Meeting for the MM |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| To review draft agenda and tentative programme of the MM |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**----------------------------**