

**16th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-16)**

10 – 12 September 2019, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background/Context**

The APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF) is part of APT’s continuous effort in assisting members in bridging the digital divide and provides opportunity to identify the specific issues that hinder development of the telecommunication networks in rural areas and to discuss the appropriate use of new technologies available for rural telecom development. It is also a platform to address ICT development issues and share information and experience of best practices as well as trend of services and technologies for bridging digital gap.

Since 2018, the ADF has focused its work within the five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 namely: a) Connectivity; b) Innovation; c) Trust; d) Capacity Building; and e) Partnership, and such focus continues for 2019.

The availability of the broadband connectivity and the development of ICT have created the socioeconomic benefits for the people in the Asia-Pacific region; nevertheless, not everyone could benefit from this development due to lack of connectivity. There are still many challenges to overcome in extending broadband connectivity to remote and rural areas as well as in delivering connectivity from core network to the destination. This last mile connectivity is typically the speed bottleneck in telecommunication network and the final hurdle of delivering telecommunication services to end users. In terms of ICT development, the success of telecommunication/ICT innovation including for startups and SMEs requires an effective and efficient innovation ecosystem which includes various players and stakeholders interacting in an integrated manner. In addition, Internet of Things (IoT) is one of the emerging technologies where wide ranges of its application was developed and deployed in recent years. In this regards, ADF-16 is aimed at addressing the above issues which contributed to the connectivity and innovation pillars of the current Strategic Plan of the APT.

ADF also links to the achievements of the ICT Pilot Projects in Rural Areas and any other ICT projects funded by the Extra-Budgetary Contribution from Japan and Korea. The results of the projects are reported in the ADF allotted session for the sharing the fruitful results under the close co-operation of the local collaborators and Experts in the APT Members.

Since the ADF-16 is held after the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (APT-MM 2019) and the Ministers are expected to adopt the Ministerial Statement, which will be the five-year vision for the Asia-Pacific region. Therefore, it is an opportunity for the ADF-16 to aware of the outcomes from the APT-MM 2019.

1. **Objectives**

The overall objectives of ADF are to : 1) focus on the telecommunications and ICT development issues for developing countries where policy makers, regulators and other relevant officials from the region come together on a common platform for a dialogue on issues of common concern with special attention on the rural areas; 2) provide opportunity for Members to share information on the best practices and experiences for the common issues on ICT development; and 3) promote sharing of expertise for addressing key issues of concern to the APT members on ICT development issues and facilitating intra-regional collaboration on telecommunication and ICT development issues as required.

The specific objectives for ADF-16 are to:

* Discuss on initiatives in developing and providing urban and rural broadband connectivity and identifying persisting challenges and measures in providing broadband connectivity
* Share activities in developing the promoting high-speed, affordable and sustainable broadband network with the focus on last mile connectivity.
* Report outcomes and achievements of the APT projects via extra budgetary contributions (EBCs)
* Discuss among participants on their needs for the new pilot projects or research programmes, the challenges and modality to assist
* Exchange and update on the national policy and regulatory frameworks that support upscale ICT centric innovative technologies and services and how to build and nurture ecosystem for innovation
* Discuss and share new development in deploying IoTs and its applications in the region or through the globe
* Share best practices, legislation and initiatives relevant to increasing broadband connectivity among members as well as initiatives to support adoption and use of ICT as an enabler for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030
* Bring the focus of high-level policy makers and regulators as well as industry leaders of ICT sector in Asia-Pacific region towards to outcome of the discussion as well as key takeaways from the Ministerial Statement adopted by the Ministers at the APT-MM 2019
1. **Expected outcomes**

The agenda of the ADF-16 covers the list of topics to discuss on the achievements and results of the APT ICT projects funded by the Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBC), Broadband Connectivity and its Persisting Challenges, Initiatives for Enhancing Last Mile Connectivity, Ecosystem for Spurring Innovation, Internet of Things (IoTs) and its, etc. The provisional agenda and tentative programme are enclosed herewith and annexed to the concept note (See Annex A and B for more information).

Specific outcomes include but not least:

* Awareness of initiatives, challenges, and measures in developing and providing urban and rural broadband connectivity
* Understanding on activities in developing the promoting high-speed, affordable and sustainable broadband network with the focus on last mile connectivity
* Understanding the need of Members for new pilot projects or research programmes, the challenges and modality to assist
* Awareness on the national policy and regulatory frameworks that support upscale ICT centric innovative technologies and services and how to build and nurture ecosystem for innovation
* Understanding new development in deploying IoTs and its applications
* Awareness on achievements and results of the APT ICT projects implemented
* Awareness on best practices, legislation and initiatives relevant to increasing broadband connectivity as well as initiatives to support adoption and use of ICT as an enabler for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030
* Understanding the vision of the Ministerial Statement as adopted at APT-MM 2019, its implication, key takeaways and how it can be implemented.
1. **Timing and location**

ADF-16 will be held in cooperation with the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications (MPTC) of Cambodia from 10 to 12 September 2019 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

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** |
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**Annex A**

**16th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-16)**

**Provisional Agenda**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Selection of Vice-Chairmen of ADF
4. Outcomes of the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to ADF
5. Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
6. Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020
7. Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects via Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)
8. Thematic Sessions:
	* + Broadband Connectivity and its Persisting Challenges
		+ Initiatives for Enhancing Last Mile Connectivity
		+ Best Practices on Connectivity
		+ Ecosystem for Spurring Innovation
		+ Internet of Things (IoTs) and its applications
		+ Best Practices on Innovation
9. Way Forward
10. Date and Venue for ADF-17
11. Any Other Matters
12. Closing

**Annex B**

**16th APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-16)**

**Tentative Programme**

| *TIME* | *PROGRAMME* |
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|  | **Tuesday, 10 September 2019** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening** * Welcome Address – Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT
* Welcome Remarks – Dr. Leng Ky, Chairman of ADF
* Inaugural Address – Dignitary of Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication / Cambodia *(tbc)*
* Presentation of Token of Appreciation

(Group Photograph) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | **Session 1 -** ***Plenary*** * Adoption of Agenda
* Selection of Vice-Chairmen of ADF
* Outcomes of the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to ADF
* Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
* Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020
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| 11:00 – 12:30 | **Session 2 – *Broadband Connectivity and its Persisting Challenges*** *This session discusses on initiatives in developing and providing urban and rural broadband connectivity and identifying persisting challenges and measures in providing broadband connectivity.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics**** Initiatives to enhance the International Broadband Connectivity such as Interactive Transmission Maps of ITU;
* Huddles to reduce the cost for broadband connectivity;
* Creativity in providing connectivity in maximizing the benefits of Public and Private Partnership

***Speakers:**** Member Administrations;
* A representative of ITU *(tbc)*
* A representative from international/intergovernmental organization *(tbd)*
 |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 3 – *Initiatives for* *Enhancing Last Mile Connectivity****This session invites Member Administrations and Affiliate Members to* *share their activities in developing the promoting high-speed, affordable and sustainable broadband network with the focus on last mile connectivity.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics**** 5G as a service of backhaul for rural area communication;
* Sustainable power supply for last mile connectivity;
* Community build-up network and its sustainability

***Speakers:**** Member Administrations
* Affiliate Members
 |
| 15:30 – 15:45  | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 4 –*****Best Practices on Connectivity****This session invites Member Administrations to shares best practices, legislation and initiatives relevant to increasing broadband connectivity among members.**Moderator: (tbd);****Topics**** Updates on Broadband Policy in Member Administrations;
* Best practices in providing connectivity by using Universal Service Fund (USF);
* Applications over the provided connectivity

***Speakers:**** Member Administrations
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| 18:00 -  | Welcome Reception  |
| **Time** | **Wednesday, 11 September 2019** |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | **Session 5 – *Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects via Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)****The session introduces the outcomes and achievements of the APT projects via extra budgetary contributions (EBCs). It features rural telecommunication and ICT application in rural area. It also highlights initiative from our Member in the form of pilot project to safeguard itself from cyber-attacks.* *Moderator:* ***Topics:**** Basic Health-Care System for Rural Communities through Mobile Applications by Myanmar
* Effective Broadband infrastructure for development of communities in Dullu Municipality, Nepal by Nepal
* Pilot project for countermeasures against cyber-attacks in Vietnam - Viet Nam

***Speakers:**** Member Administrations or Project coordinators
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| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee / Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | **Session 6 –** ***Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects via Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)****The session introduces the outcomes and achievements of the APT projects via extra budgetary contributions (EBCs). Particularly, it features examples of disaster warning and management project in disaster-prone member countries.* *Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Feasibility Study to Establish a Comprehensive "Sensor Based end to end Early Warning System" for Hydro-Meteorology Induced Disasters in Sri Lanka, Utilizing "Resilient Communication System" for Effective Disaster Management by Sri Lanka
* Exchange of advanced knowledge and expertise with evolving ICT quick access deploying MDRU for disaster management/mitigation in Vanuatu by Vanuatu

***Speakers:**** Member Administrations or Project coordinators
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| 12:15 – 14:00  | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 7 – *Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects via Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)****The session introduces the outcomes and achievements of the APT projects via extra budgetary contributions (EBCs). These projects aim to provide new values and benefits in the field of services or industries such as tourism, disaster reduction, and so on.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Study on Free WiFi System to enhance public and tourism services in Lao PDR
* Digital Infrastructure Building and Implementation Prospects: implementation of modern communication technology solution (UCDMR based Community Information System) for PPDR and welfare in Dumre-Bhansar Nepal
* Augmented reality based smart tourism information system for enhancing travel and tourism development in Vietnam

***Speakers:**** Member Administrations or Project coordinators
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| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee / Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 16:45  | **Session 8 – *Group* *Discussion on APT Projects (Part A)****This session will be arranged into small groups to discuss among participants to identify problems/issues to be tackled including idea for possible solutions for the APT pilot projects or international collaborative research. The participants could be divided into small groups (e.g., rural area communication and ICT applications) and discuss about the challenges and modality to enhance the programmes.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Accomplishments of the APT Projects in APT Member Administrations and their limits;
* Identifying challenges in providing rural area communications and ICT applications;
* Possible ways to address the challenges and their constraints;
* Possible ways to scale up the Pilot project to nationwide level
* Any recommendations
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| 16:45 – 17:15 | **Session 9 – *Group Discussion on APT Projects (Part B)****This session will share the outcomes of the discussion from the small groups and summarize the issues on challenges, priority areas, recommendation which will provide a basic idea for way forward regarding APT Projects.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:*** * Sharing the outcomes of the small groups’ discussions;
* Identifying possible ways for way forward

***Speakers***:* Facilitators of the small groups’ discussion
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| **Time** | **Thursday, 12 September 2019** |
| 9:00 – 10:30 | **Session 10 – *Ecosystem for Spurring Innovation****This session intends to support members in exchanging and updates on the national policy and regulatory frameworks that support upscale ICT centric innovative technologies and services and how to build and nurture ecosystem for innovation.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:*** * Policies for nurturing ecosystem for innovation in APT Member Administrations;
* Initiatives to cultivating Entrepreneurship and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)

***Speakers***:* Member Administrations
* International/intergovernmental organizations
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| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | **Session 11 – *Internet of Things (IoTs) and its applications*** *This session intends to support members in discussing and sharing new development in deploying IoTs and its applications in the region or through the globe.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Recent technology development in deploying IoTs;
* Applications by using IoTs
* Suggestions for the success of massive IoT deployment

***Speakers***:* Member Administrations
* Affiliate Members
* International/intergovernmental organizations
 |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30  | **Session 12 – *Best Practices on Innovation****This session invites Member Administrations to share best practices, legislation and initiatives to support adoption and use of ICT as an enabler for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.**Moderator: (tbd)****Topics:**** Policies on Innovation of APT Member administrations in Member Administrations;
* Initiatives on Innovation by using ICT in other sectors

***Speakers:**** Member Administrations
 |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 13 – *Plenary*** *Chair: Chairman of ADF** Way Forward
* Date and Venue for ADF-17
* Any other matters

**Closing*** Remarks by Secretary General of the APT;
* Remarks and closing by Chairman of ADF

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