 

**12th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-12)**

1-3 October 2019, Nuku’alofa, Tonga

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background/Context**

Pacific Islands region is unique in its characteristics with sparsely populated islands and expansive area consisting of many remote islands. Among common problems and challenges in ICT that the region faced are expensive international connectivity, high investment cost in telecommunication infrastructure and services with low return, lack of competition, lack of human resource and capacity, cybersecurity issues, telecommunication frauds, etc. This makes the provision of affordable telecommunication and ICT services a difficult business case and specifically challenging, which thwarts socio-economic growth of the region. In many cases, countries have to rely on international and regional aid, which is not a good approach for sustainable development.

The APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP) is an annual forum designed to address the relevant ICT issues of the Pacific Island countries. It is a platform for open discussion, exchange of ideas, and sharing of experiences that brings together policy makers, regulators, telecommunication service providers, manufacturers, academia, regional and international organizations, and other stakeholders to tackle the issues of interest for the Pacific region.

The Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 has been the guideline for APT’s activities since 2018 and the PRFP has focused its work within the five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan: a) Connectivity; b) Innovation; c) Trust; d) Capacity Building; and e) Partnership. Key areas as addressed by these Strategic Pillars including broadband penetration to unserved and underserved, ICT-enabled services and applications, security and resilience through ICT, promoting inclusiveness and enhancing expertise, etc.

For 2019, the 12th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-12) will continue to address various topics which are in line with those five Strategic Pillars. The PRFP-12 features overarching topics ranging from latest policy and regulation for the Pacific, digital transformation, digital inclusion, connectivity, issues around telecommunication industry including roaming, fraud, MVNO, to cybersecurity, e-application and disaster management.

There would be a report on the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (APT-MM 2019) in Singapore. The ***Singapore Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Co-creating a Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific,*** which was adopted by the Ministers provides the strategic vision of the Asia-Pacific for the next 5 years.

The forum also features a roundtable of policy makers and regulators to provide opportunity for exchanging views and visions on ICT and telecommunication issues among each other and enhance understanding with industry sector. The outcomes of the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019 (GSR-19) will also be presented to the forum. The thematic sessions of PRFP-12 are rightly designed based on Strategic Plan and supplemented by issues indicated in Strategic Goal and priority areas as set out in the Singapore Statement.

1. **Objectives**

The overall aim of the forum is to provide a common platform for Pacific countries to discuss issues together for solutions, which are viable, and feasible for particular conditions of the region. In addition, there will also be a closed session for policy makers and regulators which will be candid discussion exclusively among policy makers and regulators in the region.

The specific objectives for PRFP-12 are to:

* To provide opportunity for the policy makers and regulators to exchange views on ICT issues in the region;
* To provide information on Digital Transformation which focuses on enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT development from both policy and regulation, and technology aspect;
* To share information and experience in Digital Inclusion to promote ICT adoption for all group of citizens including vulnerable group;
* To address connectivity issues including international connectivity through submarine cable and satellite communications, last mile access and the impact of limitation on power supply;
* To discuss approaches towards the ongoing issues of telecommunication industry in the region through various approaches. The issues include international mobile roaming, number misappropriation, telecommunication fraud, and MVNO;
* To discuss cybersecurity issues including the data privacy and online content regulation;
* To share experience on E-Application and its issues in the Pacific;
* To share information and discuss relevant technologies, policy and regulation and project activities related to disaster management in the Pacific;
* To highlight the outcome of the discussion as well as key takeaways from the Ministerial Statement adopted by the Ministers at the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, and outcome of GSR relevant to the Pacific.

1. **Expected Outcomes**

The agenda of the PRFP-12 is a line-up of sessions to address the issues of concern for a policy and regulatory in Telecommunication and ICT sector development of the Pacific region. The provisional agenda and tentative programme are annexed to this Concept Note (See an **Annex A** and **Annex B** for more information).

Main expected outcomes are:

* Information exchange and common issues sharing among policy makers and regulators;
* Enhanced understanding in various aspects such as policy and regulation and technology, and explore possible solutions on various topics of thematic sessions on Digital Transformation, Digital Inclusion, Connectivity, Telecommunication Industry Issues, Cybersecurity, E-Application, and Disaster Management;
* Sharing of best practices and information to assist further development of regulatory framework of Member countries;
* Key policy and regulatory concerns for Member countries in the Pacific and potential assistance are identified and discussed;
* 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**

PRFP-12 will be held from 1 to 3 October 2019 in Nuku’alofa, Tonga in collaboration with Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change, & Communications (MEIDECC), Government of Tonga.

1. **Participation**

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations, and Eligible Non-Members can participate in the Forum and Workshop. For those who are under fellowship invitation will be contacted separately via focal contacts by the APT.

Non-APT members may be invited to participate in the activities of the Forum as a guest at the discretion of the Chairman of the Forum and the Secretary General in consultation with the relevant Member administration as appropriate. Other non-APT members may participate as observer with the payment of the participation fee.

1. **Contact Points**

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**Annex A**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019
4. Outcomes of the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019 (GSR-19)
5. Roundtable of high-level policy makers and regulators
6. Thematic Sessions:
   1. Digital Transformation : Enabling Policies and Technologies
   2. Digital Inclusion : Promoting ICT Adoption for all
   3. Connectivity in the Pacific
   4. Issues in Telecommunication Industry
   5. Cybersecurity : Managing Threats, Misleading Content and Data Privacy
   6. E-Application and its role in the Pacific
   7. Disaster Management in the Pacific
7. Closed Session for Policy Makers and Regulators
8. Future Outlook
9. Any other matters
10. Closing

**Annex B**

**Tentative Programme**

| *TIME* | *PROGRAMME* |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Tuesday, 1 October 2019** |
| 08:30 - 09:30 | **Registration** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening**   * Welcome Address – Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, APT * Address – Ms. Unutoa Fonoti, Chairman of PRFP * Inaugural Address – Tonga *(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 * Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 * Outcomes of the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019 (GSR-19) |
| 11:00 - 12:15 | **Session 2 :** ***Roundtable of high-level policy makers and regulators***  *This session features a roundtable discussion for high-level policy makers and regulators which aims to provide open conversation to enhance understanding on ICT and telecommunication issues.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  ***Topics:***   * Recent Development and Achievement of Policy and Regulation in the Pacific * Emerging Challenges in Policy and Regulation   ***Panelists:***   * High-level Policy Makers and Regulators |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **Session 3 *: Digital Transformation : Enabling Policies and Technologies***  *This session shares information on enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT development so as to accelerate the digital transformation of the economy and society. This includes new technologies that are enabler for digital transformation, and policy and regulation perspective which promote digitalisation of service, ensure transparency, market competition, and equal access, protect consumer, and encourage the development of innovative technologies and services.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics :   * 5G as Enabler to Digital Transformation * Policy and Regulation aiming for development of innovative technologies and services * Digitalisation of Services from Public and Private Sector   Panelist :   * Members / Associate Members in the Pacific * Affiliate Members |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 4 :** ***Digital Inclusion : Promoting ICT Adoption for all***  *This session dedicates to the national digital inclusion policies, strategies, practices and activities. This includes ICT education programme and promotion of the digital adoption for all citizens, especially for vulnerable groups, so that they can participate and contribute to the digital economy.*  *Moderator :*  Topics:   * National Digital Inclusion Policies, Strategies, Practices * Capacity Building for Digital Inclusion * Gender Equality * Digital Inclusion for Vulnerable Group   Panelist :   * Members / Associate Members in the Pacific |
| 18:00 - | Welcome Dinner (To Be Confirmed) |
| **Time** | **Wednesday, 2 October 2019** |
| 9:00 - 10:15 | **Session 5 :** ***Connectivity in the Pacific***  *This session discusses international connectivity through various submarine cable projects and satellite communications. It also discusses issues last mile connectivity including the limitation of power supply and its impact thereof.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics :   * New Submarine Cable Projects * Last Mile Connectivity * Role of Power Supply in Connectivity   Speakers:   * World Bank *(TBC)* * Members / Associate Members in the Pacific : Solomon Islands *(TBC)* * Satellite Provider *(TBD)* |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 - 12:00 | **Session 6 :** ***Issues in Telecommunication Industry***  *This session highlights ongoing issues that have plagued the telecommunication in the region and the potential approaches to manage them. Among issues discussed include mobile roaming, the premium rate number management or so-called number misappropriation, telecommunication fraud, and MVNO.*    *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics :   * Mobile Roaming: Issues, Possible Solutions, and Alternatives * Managing Telecommunication Fraud * Number Misuse * Aspects of MVNO   Speakers:   * PITA *(TBC)* * Bluesky *(TBC)* * Telecom New Zealand International *(TBC)* * Key Telecom Operator in the Pacific *(TBC)* * Fraud Consultant *(TBC)* |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **Session 7 : *Cybersecurity : Managing Threats, Misleading Content and Data Privacy***  *This session is dedicated to various aspects of security in cyberspace including latest updates in cybersecurity in the region, the protection of personal data, and how to manage false or misleading online content while keeping the spirit of free speech.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics:   * Updates of Cyberthreats, and Cybersecurity activities in the Pacific * Data Privacy * Online Content Regulation * Child Online Protection   Panelist :   * Australia *(TBC)* * PNG *(TBC)* * ICANN *(TBC)* * Internet Society *(TBC)* |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:00 | **Session 8 :** ***Closed Session for Policy Makers and Regulators***  *This session is an exclusive session for exchanging candid views and information amongst Policy Makers and Regulators on issues around ICT in the Pacific countries. The discussion topics will be decided by the participating countries.*  *Moderator: (TBD)* |
| **Time** | **Thursday, 3 October 2019** |
| 9:00 - 10:15 | **Session 9 :** ***E-Application and its role in the Pacific***  *This session shares the stories and lessons learned from E-Application and its impact on the socio-economic development of Pacific. It also discusses challenges and issues of e-Application in the region.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics:   * Mobile Financial Services and Impact on Financial Inclusion * E-Agriculture * E-Tourism   Panelist :   * Digicel or Vodafone *(TBC)* * Fiji *(TBC)* * PNG *(TBC)* * Members / Associate Members in the Pacific *(TBC)* * Affiliate Members *(TBC)* |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 - 12:00 | **Session 10 : *Disaster Management in the Pacific***  *This session provides information on the disaster management activities in the Pacific including the policy and regulatory aspect and the project related activities which set as good examples to be replicated in the region. It also provides information on appropriate technologies suitable to be deployed for disaster management in the Pacific where there is limited resources and infrastructure.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topic :   * Policy and Regulation for Disaster Management in the Pacific * Disaster Management related project in the region * Technologies for Disaster Management in the Pacific   Speakers :   * Tuvalu, Kiribati (TBC) * Vanuatu (TBC) * Inmarsat BGAN (TBC) * Affiliate Members |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **Session 11: *Panel Discussion : Future Outlook***  *Panel session by Heads of Delegations to discuss collaboration issues in overall including cooperation with other organizations/ institutions/ initiatives.*  *Moderator: PRFP Chairman*  Topics:   * Open Dialogue on Future Outlook for the Pacific and potential cooperative issues; * Discussion and Q&A |
| 15:15 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 16:15 | **Session 12: *Plenary - Way Forward and Closing***   * Date and Venue of PRFP-13 * Any other matters   Closing   * Remarks by Secretary General, APT * Remarks and closing by Chairman of PRFP |