20th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-20)

Virtual Meeting, 20 - 22 October 2020

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background/Context

APT has created the Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF) as a platform to share and exchange valuable views and experience on issues which are to our common concern, with the aim of achieving a more harmonized regulatory environment in the region. It is also a platform for the industry to bring issues of their concerns to the attention of the regulators. In almost two decades, the APT PRF has been regarded as a high-level event that underlines the important role of the APT in shaping key ICT policies in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 provides guidelines for the activities of the APT and this year is the last year for the current implementation period while each Work Programme still need to focus its work within the five Strategic Pillars i.e. Connectivity, Innovation, Trust, Capacity Building, and Partnership. The outcomes of the implementation of Strategic Plan for the current period will be reported to the 15th Session of the General Assembly of the APT at the end of this year.

While PRF has a successful record as a discussion platform and the 43rd Session of the Management Committee of the APT approved to organize the 20th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-20) in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic imposed restrictions on international travelling in many countries and it is very difficult to organize a physical meeting for PRF-20. The APT Secretariat in consultation with the Office Bearers of the PRF decided to organize a virtual meeting for the PRF-20.

The PRF-20 aims at addressing hot policy and regulatory issues of ICT in the region while also focus on the five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT. During the COVID-19 pandemic, ICT has shown its important role to combat this crisis and how it can be enabler in other sectors. The PRF-20 will address issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to connectivity, innovation, and trust Pillars. Policy makers and regulators will share experience on the lesson learned from this outbreak as well as deliberate on policy and regulatory measures for post-COVID-19 era. Industry representative will share its contributions in coping with COVID-19 outbreak and to discuss the policy and regulatory considerations for post-COVID-19 era.

The forum also features a session on Online Well-being and Safety which will discuss the approaches in managing misinformation which has become a major issue these days, and the pros and cons of Privacy vs Functionality by looking at the case study in contact tracing applications of COVID-19 in particular. In addition, the programme will also address new context in connectivity and provide update on 5G deployment.

2. Objectives

APT PRF provides an opportunity to share and address key issues of concern to APT Members, as well as to facilitate intra-regional collaboration on policy and regulatory issues as required. Industry leaders and other key stakeholders also share their views on major issues facing the sector.

The specific objectives for PRF-20 are to:

- Share experience on the lesson learned from the COVID-19 outbreak and to deliberate on policy and regulatory measures for post-COVID-19 era
- Provide a platform for industry to discuss and share the industry contributions in coping with COVID-19 outbreak and to discuss the policy and regulatory considerations for post-COVID-19 era.
- Enhance understanding on policies, regulations, strategies, and initiatives to address secure and trusted ICT services including issue on balancing between data protection and functionality and approach in managing misinformation.
- Understand challenges and issues in providing connectivity during the crisis, the concept of meaningful connectivity, and global connectivity with new technologies.
- Enhance understanding on 5G deployment and actions being undertaken by APT members in terms of policy and regulatory issues, national action plan, spectrum issues as well as investment strategies and models for 5G deployment

3. Expected outcomes

This time, the meeting is conducted as a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 and number of sessions is limited for the current policy and regulatory issues including connectivity, innovation, secure and trusted ICT service. The provisional agenda and tentative programme of the PRF-20 are enclosed herewith and annexed to the concept note (See Annex A and B for more information).

Specific outcomes include but not limited to:
- Common challenges and lesson learned from the COVID-19 outbreak and policy and regulatory measure for post-COVID-19 era are identified
- Enhanced awareness of policy makers and regulators on policy and regulatory consideration for post-COVID-19 era
- Better knowledge on policies, regulations, strategies, and initiatives for balancing between data protection and functionality and approach in managing misinformation.
- Common challenges in providing connectivity during crisis are provided and understanding of the concept of meaningful connectivity and global connectivity with new technologies
- Better knowledge on 5G deployment and actions being taken by APT members

4. Timing

The virtual meeting of the PRF-20 will be a 3-day event from 20 to 22 October 2020. The meeting will be organized via Zoom meeting platform from 10:30 AM – 13:45 PM (GMT+7).

5. **Participation**

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations, and eligible non-members can participate in the PRF-20.

Participants will be provided with Zoom meeting URL, meeting ID and password. Participants shall logon to meeting URL at the designated time and date. In order to have proper audio experience during the meeting, participants should be equipped with headset containing speaker and microphone. Please follow the guidelines in attending online meeting. APT guidelines in attending online meeting is provided in an Introduction to APT Zoom meeting document.

6. **Contact persons:**

APT Secretariat
Mr. Pubate Satienpoch Project Coordinator (Policy & Regulation) Ms. Kullasap Yanyathip Programme Secretary Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) 12/49 Soi 5, Chaeng Watthana Road Bangkok 10210, Thailand Tel: + 66 2 573 0044 Fax: +66 2 573 7479 E-mail : aptpolicy@apt.int

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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Outcomes of the 43rd Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRF

4. Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020

5. Working Methods of PRF

6. Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations

7. Roundtable on Lesson Learned from COVID-19 and Policy and Regulatory measures for Post-COVID-19 era

8. Business Dialogue: Industry contributions in coping with COVID-19 and Policy and Regulatory considerations for Post-COVID-19 era

9. Thematic Sessions:
   • Online Well-being and Safety
   • New Context in Connectivity
   • Update on 5G Deployment

10. Way Forward

11. Date and Venue for PRF-21

12. Any Other Matters

13. Closing

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Tentative Programme

TIME (Bangkok)	PROGRAMME
	Tuesday, 20 October 2020
10:30 – 10:45 (UTC+7)	**Opening** • Welcome Remarks – Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT • Opening Remarks - Chairman of PRF (Group Photograph)
10:45– 11:00 (UTC+7)	**Session 1 - *Plenary*** • Adoption of the Agenda • Outcomes of the 43rd Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRF • Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 • Working Methods of PRF • Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations *(no presentation)*
11:00 – 12:15 (UTC+7)	**Session 2 - *Roundtable on Lesson Learned from COVID-19 and Policy and Regulatory measures for Post-COVID-19*** *COVID-19 is not only a wake-up call on the role of ICT to combat pandemic crisis. It also calls for the revisit of our ICT policy and regulation to address to the needs during the crisis and even after COVID-19 when our society and economy will enter new normal.* *The Roundtable will invite high-level policy makers and regulators from APT Member Administrations to share experience on the lesson learned from the COVID-19 outbreak and to address policy and regulatory measures for post-COVID-19 era and how Digital Technology has become a part of our New Normal.* *Moderator: (tbd);* • Lesson learned from COVID-19 pandemic • Policy and Regulatory measures for post-COVID-19 • How Digital Technology has become a part of the New Normal • Q&A ***Panelists:*** • High-level Policy Makers and Regulators from Member Administrations
12:15 – 12:30 (UTC+7)	Coffee/Tea Break

TIME (Bangkok)	PROGRAMME
12:30 – 13:45 (UTC+7)	**Session 3 – *Business Dialogue: Industry contributions in coping with COVID-19 and Policy and Regulatory considerations for Post-COVID-19 era*** *The panel session provides a platform for high level industry representative to discuss the share the industry contributions in coping with COVID-19 outbreak and to address the policy and regulatory considerations for post-COVID-19 era.* *Moderator: (tbd)* • Industry contributions to cope with COVID-19 pandemic • Policy and Regulatory suggestions for post-COVID-19 • Q&A ***Panelists:*** • Affiliate Members
	Wednesday, 21 October 2020
10:30 – 11:45 (UTC+7)	**Session 4 - *Online Well-being and Safety*** *This session will discuss the policies, regulations and strategies, and initiatives to address secure and trusted ICT services.* *Data becomes precious asset in the new market economy. That makes privacy and data protection major concerns in this new age. Too high level of data protection may limit functionality of ICT services. How do we strike balance between data protection and functionality, especially in the time of crisis like COVID-19 pandemic?* *ICT is seen as a double-edged sword. Misuse of ICT service can take a toll on economy and society. Particularly, misinformation, easily propagated on social media, can have detrimental impact. In some cases, it can even cause social unrest at the national/international level. Managing misinformation has become a key agenda in ICT. This session will also touch on approaches taken to manage misinformation while maintaining freedom of speech and privacy for general public.* *Moderator: (tbd)* ***Topics:*** • Privacy/Data Protection vs Functionality : Case Study of Contact Tracing Apps in COVID-19 Crisis • Managing Misinformation • Q&A ***Speakers***: • Member Administrations • Industry Representatives •

TIME (Bangkok)	PROGRAMME
11:45 – 12:00 (UTC+7)	Coffee / Tea Break
12:00 – 13:15 (UTC+7)	**Session 5 – *New Context in Connectivity*** *The internet connection plays an important role in the battle against COVID-19 pandemic and it is the answer to many COVID-19 lockdown problems. Billions of people are going online to stay in touch during this crisis but almost half of the world's population has no access to the internet. For those who are connected, the quality of internet they used is still different.* *This pandemic has made clear that basic internet access is not enough while the internet's most useful features- video calling, streaming, education and health apps – demands a high quality of internet connection. How should connectivity be redefined to be more insightful by including, e.g., meaningful usage of ICT on it?* *New technologies promise to provide low cost global connectivity faster and more widespread than ever. What are the pros and cons of this new mode of internet provider? What impacts will they exert on the incumbent service providers within our countries? How do we, as policy makers and regulators, best embrace and gain benefit from them while not discouraging domestic ICT services and development?* *These aspects of connectivity will be discussed in this session.* *Moderator:* *Topics:* • Challenges and Issues in Providing Connectivity during the Crisis • Meaningful Connectivity Concept • Global Connectivity with new technologies : Choices, Pros and Cons including Impacts on Rural Connectivity and ICT Landscape • Q&A *Speakers*: • Member Administrations • Industry Representatives
	Thursday, 22 October 2020
10:30 – 12:00 (UTC+7)	**Session 6 – *Update on 5G Deployment*** *As 5G is gearing up for market deployment, this session will discuss the update on the latest market developments, including actions being undertaken by APT members in terms of policy and regulatory issues, national action plan, spectrum issues as well as investment strategies and models for 5G deployment that facilitate cost-effective 5G infrastructure build-out.*

TIME (Bangkok)	PROGRAMME
	Moderator: (tbd) *Topics:* • Services, infrastructure, spectrum, key technologies for 5G • Policy and regulatory issues including National Action Plan for 5G • Investment Strategies and Models for 5G including infrastructure sharing, neutral host, etc. • 5G Applications • Q&A *Speakers:* • Member Administrations • Industry Representatives
12:00– 12:30 (UTC+7)	**Session 7 – *Plenary*** *Chair: Chairman of PRF* • Way Forward • Date and Venue for PRF-21 • Any other matters **Closing** • Remarks by Secretary General of the APT; • Remarks and closing by Chairman of PRF