 

**Connectivity for all: Insights for Asia Pacific**

**Joint APT-OECD back-to-back Workshop with**

**the 22nd APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-22)**

21 July 2022, Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid)

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| **CONTEXT** |

**The APT and the OECD share a goal of improving connectivity**

The [**Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)**](https://www.apt.int/APT-Introduction) is an intergovernmental organization with 38 member countries and 4 Associate Members spanning the Asia Pacific region, as well as over 100 private companies and academic institutions that are Affiliate Members. The APT provides a unique platform for regional exchange and for policy and regulatory coordination on ICT topics. One of the overarching goals of the APT, as outlined in its [Strategic Plan for 2021-2023](https://www.apt.int/sites/default/files/Upload-files/GA-MC-DOCS/2020-GA15-MC44/Strategic_Plan_2021-2023.pdf), seeks “to accelerate the digital transformation of the economy and society in the Asia Pacific region by realizing the benefits of telecommunication/ICT and coping with the challenges of rapidly evolving telecommunication/ICT environments”. Connectivity is an underlying pillar to support this overarching goal, as the digital transformation is not possible without reliable connectivity. Indeed, connectivity is the first of five strategic pillars outlined in the plan, underlining the importance the APT places on improving connectivity.

The [**Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**](https://www.oecd.org/)is an international organisation with 38 member countries spanning Europe, the Americas and Asia. Four countries are members of both the APT and the OECD: Australia, Japan, Korea and New Zealand. The OECD has additional connections with APT members. For example, China, India and Indonesia are key partner countries of the OECD and Thailand and Singapore actively participate in OECD meetings. Furthermore, the OECD has [regional initiatives](https://www.oecd.org/southeast-asia/cooperation/) focusing on Southeast Asia, as well as a country programme with [Thailand](https://www.oecd.org/southeast-asia/countries/thailand/).

A key goal of the OECD is to help create “better policies for better lives” by providing a unique forum to allow countries to exchange experiences and by developing a knowledge hub of evidence-based analysis and public policy advice. The OECD’s work covers a range of policy topics, including the digital economy, of which communication issues are of central importance. The OECD has worked for many years on developing evidence-based policies to maximise the benefits of the digital transformation, including expanding and improving broadband connectivity. In 2021, the OECD adopted the [Recommendation on Broadband Connectivity](https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0322), which offers a policy and regulation roadmap of overarching principles to follow, which will help countries extend connectivity and improve the quality of broadband networks. The Recommendation provides a reference for policy makers and regulatory authorities, within and outside of the OECD, to unleash the full potential of connectivity for the digital transformation and to ensure equal access for all users.

**The APT and the OECD joining forces to improve connectivity in the region**

Leveraging the respective experience and work from both Organisations, this joint workshop aims to discuss measures to expand high-quality broadband connectivity through effective policies in the Asia Pacific region. In this regard, this workshop provides an important opportunity to meet and discuss key regulatory and policy issues related to this goal. In this Workshop, the OECD can share the experience of its members, its work on connectivity, and importantly, its Recommendation on Broadband Connectivity with APT members, which would be informative for the relevant policy to improve the quality and coverage of broadband connectivity. Equally, the APT and its members can share their experience and perspective on national situations and the challenges they face when expanding and improving broadband connectivity to enrich and inform ongoing work within both Organisations.

**Further information about the OECD’s work on connectivity**

The OECD was one of the first organisations working on connectivity through the creation of the Working Party on Communication Infrastructures and Services Policy (WPCISP) in 1988, dedicated to communication policy following the privatisation of telecommunication companies. The work of the WPCISP has continued since then; all reports on broadband over the past decades can be found [here](https://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/telecomandinternetreports.htm). Recent broadband data can be found on the [OECD broadband portal](https://www.oecd.org/sti/broadband/broadband-statistics/).

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| **OBJECTIVES** |

* Facilitate the sharing of experiences and peer learning in the OECD and APT context, leveraging regional experience in the Asia Pacific region.
* Share the OECD’s experience on broadband connectivity with stakeholders from the Asia Pacific region, providing an overview of best practice to expand high-quality connectivity in both the OECD and the Asia Pacific region.
* Provide the relevant information to APT policy makers in the Asia Pacific region as countries consider, design and implement their policies to expand and improve connectivity to ensure that people, organisations and machines have high-quality broadband access.

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| **AGENDA** |



**Connectivity for All: Insights for Asia Pacific**

**Agenda**

**21 July 2022**

*14:00 – 17:00 GMT +7 (Bangkok) | 9:00 – 12:00 CEST (Paris, Brussels)*

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| 14:00 **Welcome and opening remarks** |
| *Brief welcome and opening remarks from the APT to set the scene for the workshop.*  Moderation of the event by [Speaker TBD], OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation  Opening remarks by:   * **Mr. Masanori Kondo**, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity |
| 14:20 **Keynote Presentation** |
| *The OECD will present its* [*Recommendation on Broadband Connectivity*](https://legalinstruments.oecd.org/en/instruments/OECD-LEGAL-0322)*, revised in 2021, outlining the key pillars of the recommendation and the best practice seen around OECD countries to expand broadband connectivity in their countries. The presentation will highlight its relevance and applicability to Asia Pacific. The OECD will close by presenting a specific project aimed at developing tailored recommendations to countries in the Southeast Asia region.*  Presentation by:   * [Speaker, TBD], OECD Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation   Floor opened for questions from participants |
| 14:50 **Coffee Break** |
| 15:20 **Panel discussion with Q&A: Challenges policy makers face to expanding connectivity in the Asia Pacific region** |
| *The OECD moderator will introduce the panellists and lead the discussion. Each panellist will be encouraged to describe the state of connectivity in their country, explain the challenges policy makers face to expand and improve broadband connectivity and describe current policy initiatives aimed at overcoming such challenges and their effectiveness. The composition of the panel will include a regional representation across Asia Pacific, targeting regulators and policy makers in ministries and government agencies, as well as industry and civil society representatives.*  Panel discussion with:   * [Speaker, TBD], East and Northeast Asia region * [Speaker, TBD], Pacific region * [Speaker, TBD], South and Southwest Asia region * [Speaker, TBD], Southeast Asia region * [Speaker, TBD], Industry representative and/or civil society   Floor opened for panel Q&A |
| **16:45 – Closing remarks** |
| *Closing remarks from the OECD to wrap up the discussion from the workshop.*  Closing remarks by:   * **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** |