



APT Symposium 2023 on Inclusive Connectivity

11 - 12 September 2023, Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid)

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

In recent years, there has been a growing need to ensure connectivity that allows everyone access to telecommunications/ICT infrastructure. Connectivity has become even more important with the coronavirus pandemic when ICT provides fundamental public services such as education and healthcare. This has led to a dramatic increase in online services and remote working. In addition, access to telecommunications/ICT infrastructure is having a greater impact on people's lives and industry due to developments in AI, such as interactive AI using the Large Language Model.

This trend is also evident in the Asia-Pacific region, and the issue of inclusive connectivity is very important for the further development of the Asia-Pacific region. A key challenge is to bridge the digital divide, particularly in unserved and underserved areas, which requires infrastructure development to provide secure, affordable and high-quality access to telecommunications/ICT infrastructure, as well as policies and regulations on broadband planning, legislation and spectrum usage.

APT Symposium, to be organized virtually or physically, would provide a platform for its members and experts to discuss general ICT policy and regulatory issues. The theme or topic of an APT Symposium can be selected based on the needs of members and trends of ICT industry. This year, the theme is to be “Inclusive and Connectivity”.

2. Objectives

Inclusion and Connectivity are two important pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023. The APT Strategic Plan specifies that APT will assist Members to increase broadband penetration with an emphasis on reaching unserved and underserved populations taking into account the affordability, quality of service and coverage. APT will also work with all members to develop policy and regulatory environments that enable them to effectively harness the benefits of innovation.

The objectives of this Symposium would be to discuss and facilitate regional cooperation on the following issues, but not limited to:

- Policy and regulatory implications and actions required with regard to emerging issues in the field of connectivity and innovation
- General policy and regulatory requirements, as necessary:
 - Analysis of impacts of new technology and service at the national and regional levels;
 - Sharing of best practices and experiences in handling new policy issues among Members.

3. Expected outcomes

The APT Symposium features discussions by APT members and experts on emerging issues in connectivity and innovation.

Specific outcomes include but are not limited to:

- Enhanced understanding of the issues of key action items of the APT Strategic Plan.
- Better understanding of policy implication and impact of new technology and services as an enabler to fulfil policy agenda.
- Addressing the challenges and possible cooperation measures in responding to the relevant issues.

4. Timing and Venue

APT Symposium will be a two-day event from 11 to 12 September 2023. It will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, with physical attendance as well as virtual/online participation through Zoom meeting (i.e., hybrid meeting).

5. Participation

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

6. Contact Information

For any further information about APT Symposium, please contact to:

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APT Symposium 2023 on Inclusive Connectivity

Tentative Programme

TIME	PROGRAMME
Day – 1 (UTC +7)	Monday, 11 September 2023
09:00 – 09:30	Registration
09:30 – 10:00	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks by Secretary General of APT • Opening Remarks by Chairman of NBTC (Group Photograph)
10:00 – 10:45	Session 1: Keynote Presentation: A success story of Inclusive Connectivity in Thailand The session will present the successful Inclusive Connectivity project in Thailand and its economic impact. It will present the success story of the Inclusive Connectivity project to connect people and promote economic growth. It will also highlight the economic impact of this project. It will also explore the impact of this project on various sectors and consider the achievements and future prospects for sustainable development. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by NBTC • Economic impacts of Net Pracharat Project (ITU / Chulalongkorn University)
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee/Tea Break
11:15 – 12:30	Session 2 Understanding the digital divide and ensuring universal connectivity (panel session) This session will focus on understanding the digital divide and ensuring universal connectivity. It will explore the causes and consequences of the digital divide, identify barriers to access and discuss strategies to promote affordable and reliable internet connectivity for all. In this session, high level officials and experts from different sectors will share their knowledge and experience on policy interventions, public-private partnerships and innovative technologies to expand digital infrastructure. The session aims to identify the source of digital divide and ways to bridge the digital divide and work towards a future where everyone has equal and equitable access to digital resources and opportunities. <p>Moderator: (TBD)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring the causes and consequences of the digital divide • Identifying barriers to access • Promoting universal access to affordable and reliable Internet connectivity • Strategies for the development of digital infrastructure

TIME	PROGRAMME
	<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:15	<p>Session 3 Cases in the Asia-Pacific for enhancing inclusive connectivity (presentation session)</p> <p>This session will present case studies on improving inclusive connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region. As inclusive connectivity becomes increasingly important for social and economic development, it is crucial to explore real-life examples of effectively bridging the digital divide and ensuring equitable access to digital resources. The case studies presented in this session will cover a variety of sectors and provide valuable insights into the impact of inclusive connectivity. By attending this presentation session, it is expected to facilitate gaining a deeper understanding of the diverse experiences and achievements in strengthening inclusive connectivity in Asia-Pacific region. Learn from these inspiring case studies and facilitate collaboration towards a more connected, inclusive and prosperous future for all.</p> <p>Moderator: (TBD)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee/Tea Break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Session 4 Emerging technologies for expanding connectivity (presentation session)</p> <p>This session will provide an opportunity to explore the potential of cutting-edge technologies to ensure inclusive connectivity. Experts in their respective fields will present emerging technologies, the challenges they can solve and the possibilities for the future. By attending this session, you will discover how emerging technologies can shape a connected future for all.</p> <p>Moderator: (TBD)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
<p>Day – 2 (UTC +7)</p>	<p>Tuesday, 12 September 2023</p>

TIME	PROGRAMME
9:30 – 10:45	<p>Session 5 Digital Inclusion and Empowerment (panel session)</p> <p>This session will address the important issues of increasing digital literacy and empowering individuals and communities to participate in the digital age. Through the insights and experiences of experts, participants will learn about strategies to bridge the digital divide by developing the necessary knowledge and skills. It will also showcase best practice examples of how individuals can use digital tools to achieve personal and professional growth, access to opportunities and civic engagement.</p> <p>Moderator: (TBD)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing digital literacy and skills development • Empowering individuals and communities to participate in the digital age <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee / Tea Break
11:15 – 12:30	<p>Session 6: Innovative Solutions and Collaborations (presentation session)</p> <p>This session will highlight innovative solutions and collaborations that are making progress with regard to inclusive connectivity. The session will focus on two key areas: public-private partnerships and community-driven initiatives. First, we look at the importance of public-private partnerships in promoting inclusive connectivity. Addressing challenges by leveraging public and private sector resources and expertise in promoting inclusive connectivity is necessary to create sustainable and inclusive solutions. In addition, this session will showcase community-driven initiatives and local innovations that have emerged as powerful drivers of connectivity. Speakers will share how communities have proactively taken ownership of connectivity challenges and implemented creative solutions.</p> <p>Moderator: (TBD)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-private partnerships for inclusive connectivity • Showcasing community-driven initiatives and local innovations <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break

TIME	PROGRAMME
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 7: Exploring Regulatory Measures for Inclusive Connectivity (panel session)</p> <p>This panel session will discuss the importance of regulatory measures to achieve inclusive connectivity. Speakers will examine the challenges and opportunities associated with a regulatory framework for inclusive connectivity from different government, industry and legal perspectives. They will also share their knowledge on best practices and innovative methods used in their sectors. Participants will have the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the role of regulation in shaping the digital environment. The session aims to explore the importance of regulatory measures, exchange views and share experiences and knowledge among stakeholders, with the ultimate goal of contributing to the development of effective regulations that enable the promotion of inclusive connectivity.</p> <p>Moderator: (TBD)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing regulatory issues and policy frameworks <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee / Tea Break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Session 8: Financing Strategies for Inclusive Connectivity (panel session)</p> <p>The session will take an in-depth look at the important issue of financing and investing in inclusive connectivity. Speakers from different sectors, including policy makers and industry leaders, will discuss the various financing mechanisms available to promote inclusive connectivity. The session will also highlight the importance of international cooperation in financing inclusive connectivity. The role of international organisations, development agencies and bilateral partnerships in facilitating cooperation and promoting investment in inclusive connectivity will be discussed. Participants will gain an understanding of the financial situation of inclusive connectivity, strategies for securing funding and opportunities for international cooperation.</p> <p>Moderator: (TBD)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding mechanisms for connectivity initiatives • Exploring innovative financing models and international cooperation <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives

TIME	PROGRAMME
17:00 – 17:15	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remarks by Secretary General of APT• Remarks by Representative of Thailand
