ASIA-PACIFIC ICT MINISTERIAL MEETING
ON CO-CREATING A CONNECTED DIGITAL FUTURE
IN THE ASIA-PACIFIC

25-26 June 2019, Singapore

PRESS RELEASE

The Ministers responsible for telecommunication / Information and Communication Technology (ICT), from 32 Members and Associate Members of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT), met in Singapore during 25-26 June 2019 to commit to a connected digital future for the region by adopting the "Singapore Statement on Co-creating a Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific".

The Singapore Statement sets out the vision of a connected digital future through the development of telecommunication / ICT in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting was last held in Brunei Darussalam in 2014. Over the past five years, the ICT development in the region has shown remarkable improvements in accordance with the key priority areas identified at that meeting.

Cognisant of the rapidly evolving digital and ICTs landscape, the Ministers have identified the following five new Strategic Goals in the Singapore Statement to guide efforts to build a connected digital future in the Asia-Pacific region:

A. **Digital Transformation** which aims to provide an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT development through improved telecommunication/ICT connectivity and access for citizens and businesses so as to accelerate the digital transformation of the economy and society, which will in turn contribute to socio-economic growth, innovation and better delivery of public services;

B. **Digital Innovation and Creativity** which aims to create an environment which is conducive for digital innovation and creativity, by introducing policies and frameworks that encourage emerging technologies, accelerate the growth of digital entrepreneurship, and promote international standards on telecommunication/ICT;

C. **Digital Community** which aims to make telecommunication/ICT accessible to everyone in our communities, including in the unserved and underserved geographical regions and people from vulnerable groups and to embrace diversity, through inclusive policies and the development of reliable telecommunication/ICT infrastructure;

D. **Digital Trust** which aims to encourage trusted and secured systems which promote the protection of data privacy, facilitate free and secure flow of information, and are resilient towards cyber threats, so that people can engage in online activities with confidence and openly share information online; and

E. **Digital Capacity Building and Partnerships** which aim to build the digital literacy and skills of all citizens so that they will be well-equipped to work collaboratively, both within the telecommunication/ICT sector as well as across other sectors, towards co-creating a connected digital future in the region.

Madam Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore, hosted the Gala Dinner of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 at the Istana on 25 June 2019 to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the APT.

The APT was established in 1979 with 15 Members, including Singapore. It has since expanded to 38 Members, 4 Associate Members and 136 Affiliate Members. The APT is the only treaty-based intergovernmental organisation in the field of telecommunications/ICTs created for the Asia-Pacific region. It has played a key role in fostering regional cooperation and facilitating developmental initiatives, forums and capacity building programmes to support these developments.

Minister S Iswaran, Chairman of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting, said, "This year, we celebrate 40 years of APT cooperation. Since the founding of the APT, we have made good progress in preparing our businesses and citizens to harness ICT to seize opportunities. However, we can achieve much more by working together and sharing best practices. We hope to continue to forge close collaborations with our regional partners and to learn from each other, so as to collectively build a thriving digital future for Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region."

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT, said, "The Singapore Statement will provide the guidelines for the next five years to lead the APT including all APT members and the APT Secretariat to co-create a connected digital future in the Asia-Pacific. Concrete action plans will be drawn up through the Strategic Plan of the APT to be adopted by the subsequent sessions of the General Assembly while the implementation of the Plans will be closely monitored. I believe this Singapore Statement will facilitate the promotion of widespread digital adoption in the region by providing fair and equitable access to ICT services for all citizens in our communities."

The meeting was organised by the APT and hosted by the Ministry of Communications and Information and the Infocomm Media Development Authority of Singapore, at the Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Center in Singapore on 25-26 June 2019.

For more information about the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, please log on to https://www.apt.int/2019-APT-MM.

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About the APT

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) is the leading intergovernmental organization for the development of ICT in the Asia-Pacific region founded by the joint initiatives of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the objective to promote the development of telecommunications and ICT services in the Asia-Pacific region with particular emphasis on the developing countries. The APT was established on 25 February 1979 upon the entry into force of the Constitution of the APT. Currently, the APT has the strength of 38 Members, 4 Associate Members and 136 Affiliate Members. The APT Headquarters is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

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