

Guidelines for APT Fellowships under HRD Program (2013)

1. Introduction

- 1.1** APT's objective is to foster the development of telecommunications and ICT in the Asia Pacific region. "Capacity building and HRD" has been established as one of Key Work Areas of APT in the "Strategic Plan of the APT 2012-2014". Based on this strategy and the Management Committee's decision, the HRD activities for year 2013 have been planned. This guideline is written to articulate the procedure clearly for both training courses and study visits.
- 1.2** Training courses and study visits are conducted at selected training centers of the Member countries. Fellowships are granted by the APT to qualified individuals who are nominated by their administrations or organizations and approved by the APT.
- 1.3** On completion of the training courses or study visits, the fellowship recipients are expected to disseminate the expertise gained by them in their own countries to increase their own productivity through the application of the acquired skills and knowledge. All successful trainees at the training courses will be awarded an APT Training Certificate.

2. Eligibility Requirements

The following are some common basic requirements of the candidates to receive APT fellowships under the APT training courses and study visits. Please also refer to the selection criteria mentioned in each invitation letter that are in addition to following requirements.

2.1 English Proficiency

Candidates have to have an adequate proficiency in the English language. APT Secretariat may request evidence that candidate's English proficiency is sufficient, such as a certificate in English proficiency from a recognized English training institution. The Nomination Form has to be completed indicating the participant's proficiency of understanding English.

2.2 Work Experience

Candidates must have at least two (2) years of professional work experience in the proposed field of the training course or study visit.

2.3 Education

Candidates should be university graduates or possess equivalent qualifications/experience in the relevant professional fields unless otherwise specified.

2.4 Residence in APT Member Countries

Candidates must be citizen or permanent residents in the APT Members or Associate Members countries.

2.5 Belonging to APT Membership

Candidates must be employees of APT Members, Associate Members or Affiliate Members. Contact persons are requested not to nominate candidates from organizations that are not an APT member. APT Secretariat will not be able to accept such nominations.

2.6 Frequency of Receipt of Fellowships

Normally, only candidates, who have not received an APT fellowship for an APT training course or study visit in the past twelve (12) months, shall be eligible for a fellowship for a training course or study visit.

2.7 Health Status

Candidates should be in good health both physically and mentally to undergo the HRD activities. Pregnancy is regarded as a disqualifying factor.

2.8 Travel Insurance

The Member administration is responsible for medical and travel insurance covering the whole period of the training course and overseas travel. The medical insurance should cover overseas medical claim, including personal accident or loss of limb and death. Neither APT nor the local training host will bear any cost for any medical claim of any nature.

2.9 Contribution

It is highly recommended that the applicants demonstrate that they have made some contribution to the relevant APT activities or home countries activities.

2.10 Continuity

It is expected that after receiving fellowship for an APT training course or study visit, the trainee should continue to work in a relevant department for a minimum period of one (1) year.

3. Nominations and Application Procedures

3.1 In principle, unless stated in the Invitation letter, only one (1) fellowship is offered by APT Secretariat and only one (1) nomination shall be submitted by each concerned APT member for the training course or study visit for consideration by APT. However administrations can nominate additional candidates who are to be funded at their own expense (See the section 6 below).

3.2 In cases where the APT members have sent more than one nominee for a single fellowship, APT Secretariat has the right to select the most suitable nominee among those that have been sent to the APT Secretariat for the training course or study visit.

- 3.3** To maximize the opportunity for international nominations, no fellowship will be given to domestic nominations. If the total number of trainees does not reach the capacity for the course, domestic trainees can attend the training course. In this case, the relevant APT member is responsible to pay all costs including the training fee.
- 3.4** APT members shall submit the completed nomination form and relevant information to the APT Secretariat through the APT contact person no later than the closing date mentioned in each invitation letter. Care should be taken to ensure ALL details are supplied to avoid delays in processing the nomination. (The latest nomination form can be downloaded from the APT website, <http://www.apr.int/APTHRD/>)
- 3.5** Before sending the nomination form, APT members are requested to check all the selection criteria with the check list mentioned in each invitation letter, especially with reference to qualification of the nominee and their relevance to the particular training course or study visit.
- 3.6** If no reply has been received from APT Secretariat within a week regarding a submitted application for a training course or study visit, APT members are requested to contact APT Secretariat either by phone or fax to follow up the procedure due to problems that have sometimes been experienced with the reception of e-mails.

4. Selection Procedure

The APT Secretariat will select suitable nominations from those submitted before the closing date. The following is a brief flow of the selection procedure.

- 4.1** In principle, the APT Secretariat considers only fully completed nomination forms for selection. ALL requests for information must be provided and ALL questions answered.
- 4.2** The APT Secretariat shall check the qualification of the nominees based on the criteria shown in each invitation letter of the training course or study visit as well as the requirements mentioned in the Section 2 above.
- 4.3** APT Secretariat may ask the contact point in the APT members about the details of a nominee for further clarification during the selection process.
- 4.4** Generally trainee selection is made using this guideline and the criteria stated on the APT invitation letter from the eligible nominations received before the closing date. However preference may be given to an administration or organization that has not been awarded a fellowship within a reasonable period.
- 4.5** The APT Secretariat will notify the results of the selection to the relevant contact persons of the APT members as soon as selection process is completed.
- 4.6** The relevant contact point of APT members must immediately confirm the readiness of the nominee to ensure their participation in the activity on time. This includes

obtaining a passport and any visas that may be required (both for entering the host country and any transit countries).

4.7 In case APT Secretariat decide not to accept a nominee, the APT members may change their nominee accordingly following notification by APT. However, the APT Secretariat may not accept the new nomination if they fail to submit their new nominations three (3) weeks prior to the commencement of the activity or the total number of the participants reaches the capacity of the training course.

4.8 The decision of the APT Secretariat is final.

5. Fellowship Provisions

5.1 In principle, APT fellowship covers the following expenses.

- Round trip international economy class air ticket cost which is considered suitable and authorized in advance to attend only the APT training course or study visit. Local transportation costs within the trainee's home country will not be covered.
- Accommodation fees and daily allowances during their stay in the host countries to participate in the activities.
- Training or tuition fees.
- Transit allowance as appropriate.

5.2 APT Secretariat reimburses the above air ticket cost with UN exchange rate which is revised every month. It may be slightly different from the actual bank exchange rate. The recipient administration / organization may need to bear the difference between the payment by APT Secretariat and exact cost.

5.3 The approved itinerary of the trainees can only be changed with the written approval by the APT Secretariat. Prior notice and written justification need to be sent the APT Secretariat by the APT members contact point well in advance.

6. Participation at Members' Own Expenses

In case any APT members would like to send their trainees to a training course or a study visit at their own expense, the interested member may contact the APT Secretariat in advance and make a request. After the necessary coordination with training organization or host country, and depending on the availability of a seat, APT Secretariat will inform the relevant member's contact person on their acceptance or otherwise as well as the terms of their participation. Please note that any such candidate should meet all criteria as shown in each invitation letter.

7. Communication to Selected Candidates/Trainees

During the whole procedure of nomination and selection process, as well as the preparation time for attending the training course or study visit, the APT Secretariat

corresponds only with the official APT members contact point. Therefore, the contact point should take the responsibility to communicate with selected candidates or trainees during and after the training as maybe required.

8. Cancellation of Participation on Training Courses

In case any APT member cancels the participation of a selected trainee, the APT members must inform APT Secretariat no later than three (3) week prior to the start of training courses. APT Secretariat may ask the reason for the cancellation and charge the members the necessary costs for the cancellation.

9. Discouraging family members to accompany

In order to take full advantage of the training, APT discourages any family member accompanying the trainee. In case a family member does accompany the trainee, despite APT's advice against it, APT will not be able to provide any support for the accompanying persons and will not be held responsible for such family members.

10. Contact Information

All nominations and related correspondence about APT fellowships under HRD Program should be forwarded on or before the closing date to:

Secretary General
Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)
12/49, Soi 5, Chaengwattana Road
Bangkok 10210, Thailand
Tel: 662 5730044
Fax: 662 5737479
E-mail: apthrd@apt.int

Please use the APT e-mail reflector apthrd@apt.int for all your correspondence.