



The 21st APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-21)

6 - 8 August 2024, Jakarta, Indonesia (Hybrid)

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background / Context

The development of telecommunication and ICT infrastructure has brought about both opportunities and challenges for countries in the Asia-Pacific region. APT Members have been making huge efforts to bring telecommunications and ICT facilities to their people at an affordable price. However, there are many issues in the areas of policy, technology, application, etc. that need to be addressed for effective deployment.

At the same time, the transformative technology of ICT is also profoundly affecting the development of the entire society and industry. ICT is a transformative technology in the social and economic aspects of modern society. It can create, transmit, share information and ideas across time and space, connect people in unprecedented ways, and enable new forms of collaboration and innovation. These characteristics allow it to converge with other industries such as agriculture, finance, education, and healthcare to significantly increase economic feasibility and benefits.

In recent years, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has rapidly evolved from theoretical concepts to practical applications. These developments have enabled AI to excel in diverse domains, including natural language processing, computer vision, robotics, and data analytics. From virtual assistants and recommendation systems to autonomous vehicles and medical diagnosis, AI technologies are revolutionizing industries. As AI continues to evolve, its potential to drive innovation, solve complex problems, and improve human lives is enormous, ushering in a new era of digital transformation and opportunity.

Meanwhile, most countries and industries are actively promoting “digital transformation” as a major strategy to respond to rapid environmental changes related to ICT, and it is becoming more important to build ICT infrastructure that can facilitate easy and reliable access to digital information and content.

Over the past 20 years, The APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF) has been established as a unique forum that facilitates a comprehensive, focus and result oriented dialogue to address the development needs and issues for the Asia-Pacific region. ADF has successfully provided a platform for that purpose and participants could get benefits from sharing information and experience of best practices as well as trend of services and technologies for bridging digital gap.

In November 2023, the 16th Session of the General Assembly of the APT (GA-16) adopted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2024-2026, which serves as the guideline for APT’s activities for

the period 2024-2026. Each work programme of the APT including ADF will focus its work within the following five (5) Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan:

- a. **Digital Connectivity:** Enhancing access and efficiency of telecommunication/ICT infrastructure, including digital broadband infrastructure.
- b. **Digital Transformation:** Enabling conducive environment and harnessing the benefit of telecommunication/ICT.
- c. **Trust and Safety:** Ensuring secure cyberspace, security and resilience through telecommunication/ICT.
- d. **Digital Inclusion:** Removing barriers to promote digital inclusiveness.
- e. **Sustainability:** Broadening participation in the telecommunication/ICT sector and using ICTs to adapt to climate change and mitigate its impact.

The 21st ADF will focus on the 3 Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan (2024-2026) of the APT: Digital Connectivity, Digital Transformation, and Trust and Safety.

Firstly, we will share the high-speed national digital infrastructure plan of APT Members with the activities of various organizations and understand the current status and practical applications of various new technologies to build affordable and reliable communication networks, as well as the efforts of other organizations to narrow the digital gap and expand universal connectivity in the Asia Pacific region.

Secondly, digital transformation is revolutionizing industries and reshaping societies worldwide. It encompasses the integration of digital technologies into all aspects of business operations, fundamentally altering how organizations operate and deliver value. From cloud computing and data analytics to AI and the Internet of Things (IoT), digital technologies enable unprecedented levels of efficiency, agility, and innovation. We will share and discuss their strategies and best practices in terms of infrastructure and supporting policies, discuss what social and economic transformation AI will bring in the near future, and what efforts governments, public institutions, and businesses should make to actively respond to it.

Thirdly, Trust and Safety is also crucial. We are aware that the global climate is undergoing significant changes, with an increase of extreme weather events. It is particularly important to utilize ICT to establish sustainable, reliable, and resilient telecommunications/ICT infrastructure and services, supporting all phases of disaster management, including prevention, adaptation, mitigation, response, and recovery, to enhance disaster preparedness, mitigate risks, and improve crisis management.

In addition, ADF-21 will also include presentations on the current status, outcomes and achievements of various ICT pilot projects implemented by APT Members based on Extra-Budgetary Contributions (EBCs) based on People's Republic of China, Japan, and Republic of Korea as specified in the ADF Working Method.

2. Objectives

The overall objectives of the ADF-21 in 2024 which was approved by the MC-47 in November 2023 are: 1) To provide a platform for governments, regulators, industry and all stakeholders to discuss ways for development of telecommunications and ICT within the region. 2) To

address issues in increasing access to affordable, sustainable and resilient telecommunication/ICT and broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas. 3) To address issues in fostering the development and adoption of new and emerging telecommunication/ICT. 4) To address issues in harnessing the benefits of telecommunication/ICT and enhancing the use of telecommunication/ICT as an enabler. 5) To share the outcome and achievements of the International Collaborative Research and the ICT Pilot Projects in rural areas, Project to facilitate ICT Application in the Asia-Pacific, and Projects on Promoting the Use of ICT for Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

Based on the overall objectives, specific objectives of ADF-21 are identified to:

- Discuss the high-speed national digital infrastructure plan and best practices to provide affordable and reliable connectivity from Members;
- Share recent developments in communication technology to build suitable ICT infrastructure for the Asia Pacific region, including 5G, fiber optics, Wi-Fi, satellite communication, and other technologies;
- Share the best practices of AI application in various fields in the Asia Pacific region and discuss its potential impact on society in the future;
- Share the technologies, best practices, and successful cases to accelerate digital transformation;
- Share the use ICT for disaster management, as well as the practical cases from Members;
- Discuss the importance of digital inclusion and share the best practices on how to bridge the digital divide;
- Report outcomes and achievements of APT projects via Extra-Budgetary Contributions (EBCs).

3. Expected outcomes

The agenda of the event covers the list of topics to discuss on the specific outcomes include but not limited to:

- Introduce the latest high-speed national digital infrastructure plan from Members to provide affordable and reliable connections for narrowing the digital divide in the Asia Pacific region;
- Understand the techniques and cases for a high-speed and quality-guaranteed network construction using 5G, fiber optics, Wi-Fi, satellite communication, and other technologies;
- Share the best practice cases of AI applications in various fields in the Asia Pacific region;
- Promoting the capacity building of AI in the Asia Pacific region;
- Understand the successful cases of digital transformation, attach importance to cultivating human resources for digital transformation;
- Understand ICT used for disaster management, share the application and effects of ICT infrastructure for disaster management from Members;
- Understanding the significance of digital inclusion and providing best practices for digital literacy for different populations.

4. Timing and Location

The ADF-21 will be held as a 3-day event from 6 to 8 August 2024, in Jakarta, Indonesia. The venue of the ADF-21 will be at Mulia Hotel Senayan Jakarta, Indonesia with virtual participation function (Zoom).

5. Participation

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations, and eligible Non-Members can participate in the ADF-21. Participants joining online will be provided with APT Zoom meeting link, meeting ID and password and to log on to meeting URL at the designated time and date.

6. Contact persons:

For any further information about ADF-21, please direct your inquiries to the following members of the Secretariat:

APT Secretariat
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PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair of ADF
4. Outcomes of the 16th Session of the General Assembly and the 47th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to ADF
5. Thematic Sessions:
 - Recent High-Speed National Digital Infrastructure Plan for Network Construction: Enhancing Connectivity with Fiber Optics, 5G, Wi-Fi, Satellite Communication, and Other Technologies
 - AI Technology, Application, and Trends: Promoting the Widespread Application of AI Technology in the Asia Pacific Region
 - Navigating Digital Transformation: Strategies, Innovations, and Best Practices
 - The Role of ICT in Disaster Management: Utilizing ICT for Monitoring, Early Warning, Communications, and Recovery
 - Digital Inclusion in Action: ICT for Inclusive Communities
6. ICT Projects based on Extra Budgetary Contributions
 - Introduction of APT Projects
 - Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects financed by Extra Budgetary Contribution (EBCs)
7. Way forward
8. Date and Venue for ADF-22
9. Any Other Matters
10. Closing

The 21st APT Telecommunication/ICT Development Forum (ADF-21)

Tentative Programme

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
Day – 1 (UTC+7)	Tuesday, 6 August 2024
9:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00- 10:30	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT • Opening Remarks by Ms. Lefaoali'i Unutoa Auelua-Fonoti, Chair of ADF • Inaugural Address – (TBD), Ministry of Communications and Informatics Indonesia <p style="text-align: center;">(Group Photograph)</p>
10:30– 11:00	Session 1: Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the Agenda • Nomination of Chair and Vice-Chair of ADF • Outcomes of the 47th Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to ADF
11:00– 11:30	Coffee / Tea Break
11:30– 12:45	Session 2: Recent High-Speed National Digital Infrastructure Plan for Network Construction: Enhancing Connectivity with Fiber Optics, 5G, Wi-Fi, Satellite Communication, and Other Technologies <p><i>Governments, research institutes, and the ICT industry have been working tirelessly to provide affordable yet high-quality connectivity in the Asia-Pacific region. However, there are various rural areas where these new technologies cannot be established in the Asia-Pacific region due to unique characteristics over vast land and sea. With Fiber Optics, LTE and 5G as the basic network, Wi-Fi, and satellite communication technologies have been established as complementary means to cover shadow areas. In this session, we will explore the high-speed national digital infrastructure plan of Members to reduce the digital divide in the region, and how these heterogeneous technologies can be applied and merged with specific cases and research.</i></p> <p>Moderator: (tbd)</p>

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent high-speed national digital infrastructure plan for network construction from Members • Obstacles in driving national broadband plan and best practice models to overcome them • Recent Fiber Optics technology and applications for high-capacity networks • Utilizing Satellite Communication technology to address network coverage in rural areas and small islands • Other technologies for narrowing the Digital Gap in the Asia-Pacific Region • Q&A <p>Speakers: (tbd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
12:45– 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15– 15:30	<p>Session 3: AI Technology, Application, and Trends: Promoting the Widespread Application of AI Technology in the Asia Pacific Region</p> <p><i>AI technology has made significant progress in recent years and has an extraordinary frequency of iterations. From machine learning algorithms powering predictive analytics to natural language processing enabling intelligent chatbots, AI technologies and services are reshaping how businesses operate and how individuals engage with digital systems. In this session, we will explore the diverse applications and implications of AI across various domains, including natural language processing, computer vision, and predictive analytics. The session aims to foster a deep understanding of AI's potential and promote the use of AI technology to address challenges.</i></p> <p>Moderator: (tbd)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI research achievements of Members and research institutes in the Asia-Pacific region. • Best practices for AI applied in various fields: education, healthcare, finance, e-commerce and retail, logistics, autonomous driving, and ecological protection, etc. • The development trends in AI, including computer vision, speech recognition, and predictive models. • How to cultivate talents with artificial intelligence skills.

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A <p>Speakers: (tbd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
15:30– 16:00	Coffee / Tea Break
16:00– 17:15	<p>Session 4: Navigating Digital Transformation: Strategies, Innovations, and Best Practices</p> <p><i>Digital transformation refers to the fundamental reimagining of business processes, operations, and models through the integration of digital technologies to drive innovation, improve efficiency, and enhance customer experiences. It represents a paradigm shift in how organizations leverage technology to adapt to rapidly evolving market dynamics and stay competitive in the digital age. At its core, digital transformation involves leveraging data analytics, cloud computing, artificial intelligence, and other emerging technologies to streamline workflows, automate tasks, and unlock new opportunities for growth and value creation. By embracing digital transformation, organizations can optimize operations, foster agility, and responsiveness, expand markets, and foster innovation. In this session, we will look at the key technologies for digital transformation and the practices implemented by governments and industries to accelerate digital transformation.</i></p> <p>Moderator: (tbd)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practices for establishing and accelerating digital transformation • The role of data analytics and predictive models in optimizing operations and driving business growth • Explore emerging technologies such as AI, blockchain, IoT, and augmented reality (AR), and their potential applications in driving digital innovation and transforming industries • Nurturing human resources for the digital transformation in the Asia-Pacific region • Q&A <p>Speakers: (tbd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
Day – 2 (UTC+7)	Wednesday 7 August 2024
09:00– 09:30	<p>Session 5: Introduction of APT Projects</p> <p><i>The session intends to introduce the process of formulating the APT Projects with the mobilization of Extra-Budgetary Contributions (EBCs). It would facilitate the understanding of APT Projects in submitting proposals.</i></p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of APT Hands-on Assistance including APT Projects • Background work for APT Secretariat to formulate the APT Projects • Processes of APT Projects, including calling for proposals, screening and selection, and projects execution and reporting • Points to consider in drafting and submitting proposals • Q&A <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jongbong PARK (Director, Project Development, APT)
09:30– 10:45	<p>Session 6: Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects financed by Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)</p> <p><i>The session introduces the outcomes and achievements of the APT projects via Extra-Budgetary Contributions (EBCs). Each presentation outlines the needs, requirements, and basic problem statement of the project. It then provides achievement as the solution including the challenges in the project and concludes with the recommendation for the beneficiary country.</i></p> <p><i>Particularly, it features examples of connectivity project in challenging geographical conditions with applications to serve the people in the area.</i></p> <p>Moderator: (tbd)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status, Outcomes, and Achievements from the Projects of EBC-J <p>Speakers:</p>

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts or Participants of beneficiary APT Members Related to EBC-J
10:45– 11:15	Coffee / Tea Break
11:15– 12:30	<p>Session 7 – Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects via Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)</p> <p><i>The session introduces the outcomes and achievements of the APT projects via Extra-Budgetary Contributions (EBCs). Each presentation outlines the needs, requirements, and basic problem statement of the project. It then provides achievement as the solution including the challenges in the project and concludes with the recommendation for the beneficiary country.</i></p> <p><i>Projects in this session provide examples of ICT applications can contribute to different sectors such as cloud infrastructure for e-learning and ICT in emergency medicine.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Morimoto Yasuhito, Programme Officer, APT</i></p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status, Outcomes, and Achievements from the Projects of EBC-J <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts or Participants of beneficiary APT Members Related to EBC-J
12:30– 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00– 15:15	<p>Session 8: Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects via Extra Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)</p> <p><i>The session introduces the outcomes and achievements of the APT projects via Extra-Budgetary Contributions from the Republic of Korea (EBC-K). Each presentation outlines the needs, requirements, and basic problem statement of the project. It then provides achievement as the solution including the challenges in the project and concludes with the recommendation for the beneficiary country.</i></p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mr. Danho Kim, Programme Officer, APT</i></p> <p>Topics:</p>

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status, Outcomes, and Achievements from the Projects of EBC-K (tbd) <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts or Participants of beneficiary APT Members Related to EBC-K
15:15– 15:45	Coffee / Tea Break
15:45– 17:00	<p>Session 9: Outcomes and Achievements of the Projects via Extra-Budgetary Contributions (EBCs)</p> <p><i>This session introduces three ICT Application projects funded by Extra-Budgetary Contributions from China (EBC-C) which were implemented last year. Experts who participated in each project will explain the current situation of the project, and Q&A and discussions will be held with the participants of the beneficiary countries.</i></p> <p><i>Moderator: Mr. Jiawei Zhang, Programme Officer, APT</i></p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status, Outcomes, and Achievements from the Projects of EBC-C <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experts or Participants of beneficiary APT Members Related to EBC-C
Day – 3 (UTC+7)	Tuesday 8 August 2024
9:00 – 10:15	<p>Session 10: The Role of ICT in Disaster Management: Utilizing ICT for Monitoring, Early Warning, Communications, and Recovery</p> <p><i>The role of ICT in disaster management has become increasingly prominent in recent years, revolutionizing traditional approaches to emergency response and resilience-building. Leveraging ICT tools and platforms enables more efficient and effective coordination of resources, communication among responders, and dissemination of critical information to affected populations before, during, and after disasters. From early warning systems and real-time monitoring to data analytics and mapping technologies, ICT plays a crucial role in enhancing situational awareness, facilitating rapid decision-making, and optimizing resource allocation in disaster scenarios. In this session, we will discuss the application of ICT in disaster management and best practice cases.</i></p>

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
	<p>Moderator: (tbd)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to ICT for disaster management, including LEO satellite, IoT, drones, Trunked mobile communication system, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), ad hoc network, etc • Use of social media, mobile applications, and AI in disaster management • Best practice cases of including ICT in disaster management • Q&A <p>Speakers: (tbd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations • Industry Representatives
10:15 – 10:45	Coffee / Tea Break
10:45 – 12:00	<p>Session 11: Digital Inclusion in Action: ICT for Inclusive Communities</p> <p><i>Digital inclusion is a critical imperative in today's digital age, aiming to ensure that all individuals and communities have equitable access to and meaningful use of digital technologies and resources. Despite the transformative potential of technology, significant disparities persist, hindering access to digital opportunities and exacerbating existing inequalities. In this session, we will share the best practices for bridging the digital divide through digital literacy, affordable connectivity solutions to promote digital equity and ensure that no one is left behind in the digital age.</i></p> <p>Moderator: (tbd)</p> <p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the expansion of affordable internet connectivity in underserved areas, such as community networks, public Wi-Fi • Share efficient solutions for providing digital literacy training for different age groups, especially teenagers and the elderly • Share insights and lessons learned from digital inclusion initiatives within the region, including successful cases, innovative methods, and new trends • Q&A <p>Speakers: (tbd)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Administrations • International Organizations

TIME (Indonesia)	PROGRAMME
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry Representatives
12:00 – 12:10	Intermission for logistic arrangement
12:10 – 12:40	<p>Session 12: Plenary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of the Output Documents, if any • Way forward • Date and Venue for ADF-22 • Any other matters <p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remarks by Secretary General of the APT • Remarks and Closing by Chair of ADF