



The Meeting of the SATRC Working Group on Spectrum

20 – 21 May 2026, Thimphu, Bhutan



INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

The Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC) Working Group on Spectrum, will be held from 20 to 21 May 2026 in Thimphu, Bhutan (physical meeting with remote participation modality). The event will be organized by the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) and hosted by the Bhutan InfoComm and Media Authority (BICMA). The meeting is part of implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase X.

Please find the following information for the convenience of participants.

1. MEETING VENUE

The venue for the Meeting of the SATRC WG on Spectrum will be at **Hotel Ariya**. The contact details of the hotel are as follows:

Hotel Arya
Olakha Thimphu, Bhutan
Tel: +975 2 333999/342222
Email: reservation@ariyabhutan.com
Website: <https://www.ariyabhutan.com>

2. PARTICIPATION

All SATRC Members and Affiliate Members of APT in SATRC Member countries can attend the meeting.

3. REGISTRATION

For the delegates attending in person, the Registration Counter will be set up in front of the Conference Hall of Hotel Ariya. The Conference Hall is located on the 5th floor of the hotel. On-site registration and badge distribution will commence on Wednesday, 20 May 2026, from 09:00 hrs onwards.

For the delegates attending virtually, Zoom meeting rooms will be opened 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.

4. HOTEL ACCOMODATION (RESERVATION)

- Hotel Arya
Olakha Thimphu, Bhutan
Contact: Tel: +975 16907107 (WhatsApp) | +975 2 333999/342222
Email: om@ariyabhutan.com | reservation@ariyabhutan.com
Website: <https://www.ariyabhutan.com>

Room Type	Room Rate/Night	
	Single	Double/Twin
Deluxe/Standard Room with Breakfast	USD 66 /Nu. 5985	USD 72 /Nu. 6510

Note: 1. Extra bed will be charged USD.21/Nu. 1920
2. The above special rate is inclusive of all taxes (GST 5 % and Service Charges 10%).

- Other Alternative Accommodation are available within a short driving or walking distances around Thimphu. These accommodation options are listed on major online hotel booking websites and participants who wish to stay at these hotels can make their bookings directly through them.

5. VISA SUPPORT

Participants shall apply for a Bhutan Visa online through the website:
<https://immi.gov.bt/home/>

Visa application fees must be paid upfront and are non-refundable.

The host will facilitate issuing the supporting documents (for visa application), such as;

- Political clearance from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade (MFAET) of Bhutan,
- VISA supporting letter.

The standard Sustainable Development Fees (SDF) of USD. 100 per day is waived off for the meeting participants, as the meeting participants are categorised under the non-tourist category number 18

(https://www.doi.gov.bt/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/revised_non_tourist-categories_Public-1.pdf)

***Note: The SDF fee is waived only for participants attending the meeting. All other visitors (except the meeting participants) will be considered under tourist category and shall be required to pay the applicable SDF fees.**

6. MEETING DOCUMENTS

Related meeting documents will be available at the APT Website:
<https://apt.int/Meeting/2026-SATRC-WG-SPEC>

Please use the following username and password to access the meeting documents:

Username: satrcwg

Password: satrcwg

7. WIRELESS ACCESS TO THE INTERNET

Internet Access over a Wi-Fi network (40Mbps) will be available during the meeting. Participants who attend physically and wish to use the Wi-Fi Internet facility are kindly requested to bring their electronic devices with Wi-Fi capability. The username and password to the Wi-Fi will be provided in the meeting room.

8. TRANSPORTATION DURING ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

All participants who inform their flight arrivals in advance will be met by the staff of BICMA upon arrival at the Paro International Airport, Paro. To avail this facility, delegates are kindly requested to send their flight itineraries through email to the Local Secretariat with a copy to the APT Secretariat at least 7 (seven) days before the date of travel. Transportation to the hotel from and to the Airport will be provided. It takes about 45 to 60 minutes by car/bus to reach the hotel.

9. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Thimphu is the capital of Bhutan. The country's main international gateway, Paro International Airport, is located in the scenic valley of Paro, approximately 50 kilometers from Thimphu. The airport is connected to the capital by a well-maintained highway that winds along riverbanks and through forested mountains, with a travel time of about one hour by road.

Thimphu is a lively yet serene city that blends tradition with modern development. Visitors will find cultural landmarks, traditional architecture, museums, and monasteries alongside comfortable hotels, restaurants, and shopping areas, offering both convenience and an authentic Bhutanese experience.

Ariya Hotel Thimphu is located in the Olakha area at the southern entrance of Thimphu, slightly outside the main town center. The hotel is approximately 4 km from Thimphu city center, which is about an 8-10 minute drive under normal traffic conditions. The hotel offers relatively easy road access while remaining close to key locations in Thimphu.

Weather:

Bhutan offers a pleasant mountain climate year-round. October to April is dry and sunny, while June to September brings vibrant green scenery. Southern towns like Phuntsholing are warm with average temperatures of 24 to 30°C, and valleys such as Thimphu and Paro are cool and comfortable, with average temperatures of 10 to 25°C. Spring and autumn are especially beautiful for travel.

The weather in Thimphu during May is generally mild and pleasant, marking the transition from spring to early summer. Daytime temperatures typically range between 18°C and 25°C, while mornings and evenings remain cooler, usually between 10°C and 14°C. The skies are often clear to partly cloudy, with occasional light rainfall as the pre-monsoon period begins.

Language:

The official and national language of Bhutan is Dzongkha, a unique language formally adopted as the national language in 1971. The name Dzongkha literally translates to “the language of the dzong (fortress)”, reflecting its historical association with Bhutan's administrative and monastic centers. Today, Dzongkha serves as a key symbol of Bhutanese

national identity and cultural unity. It is used in government administration, education, and national media.

Time zone: GMT/UTC + 6.00 hours

Banks & Currency:

The Bhutanese Ngultrum (Nu) is the currency of Bhutan. Please use only the authorized money changers and banks to convert currency. The currency may be exchanged at the airport on arrival. The Official Foreign Exchange Rate is BTN 92.46 for US\$ 1, at the time of documentation, but may be subject to change.

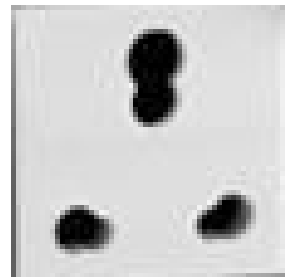
Most bank ATMs do not honor international credit cards. Visa and Master cards are accepted by some banks. It is recommended to bring physical denominations before arrival for exchange. Most hotels, shops & other establishments do not have the facility to accept international credit cards.

Electricity:

In Bhutan, power plugs and sockets (outlets) of type Universal Socket, Type D, and Type D-M are used. Hotel Ariya provides sockets of type D and M, as well as universal sockets. The standard voltage is 230 V at a frequency of 50 Hz. It is also advisable to come along with Global adaptors.



Universal Socket



Type D-M

Local Transportation:

Roads are the primary means of transport in Bhutan. The most common mode of transfer is by private vehicle or taxi arranged by hotels or tour operators. The capital, Thimphu, is about one hour away by road from Paro International Airport, while other districts are reached by well-connected national highways.

Taxis are readily available in Paro and Thimphu, and public buses operate on scheduled routes between major towns across the country.

10. INSURANCE

APT and Local Secretariat will not bear any cost of medical or travel insurance for the participant. APT and Local Secretariat, therefore, request Administrations/Organizations to kindly make necessary arrangements for medical, travel insurance, and others covering the whole period of the event and overseas travel for the participant.

11. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code of Conduct requires that all participants in connection with APT meetings or events, whether virtual, hybrid, or physical, must observe professional, respectful, and responsible

conduct at all times, bearing in mind zero tolerance for discrimination or intimidation against cultural, ethnic, religious, and gender differences, to facilitate a safe and inclusive environment. More details on APT Code of Conduct can be found at: <https://apt.int/pdf/view?filename=Guideline-20-APT-Code-of-Conduct-2023.pdf>

12. CONTACT INFORMATION

<u>APT Secretariat</u>	<u>Local Secretariat</u>
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