



SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies

6 – 8 October 2026, Kathmandu, Nepal

CONCEPT NOTE

1. Background

The 26th Meeting of the South Asian Telecommunication Regulators' Council (SATRC-26) held from 5 to 7 November 2026 in Islamabad, Pakistan approved the SATRC Action Plan Phase X for the implementation period of 2026-2027. SATRC Action Plan consists of three basic activities: working groups, capacity building and web portal. SATRC Workshops are held as part of activities under capacity building with the objective of developing the capacity of human resources of the regulators of SATRC Members.

2. Objectives

The SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies will be held as part of implementation of SATRC Action Plan Phase X. The workshop will focus on recent developments, emerging trends and innovative technologies that can support and accelerate the digital transformation of economies and societies across SATRC Member countries. In this context, the workshop aims to enhance participants' understanding of the evolving telecommunication/ICT landscape and provide insights into the emerging technologies shaping the future of the digital economy. A number of experts and guest speakers will be invited to take part in the workshop.

3. Expected Participation

The SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies will be targeted for senior and mid-level officers of the SATRC Members who are involved in the work of related areas. It is expected that the experts of the SATRC Working Groups will also attend the workshop. Further, relevant experts from industry are also expected to participate in the workshop.

4. Expected outcomes

- Improved understanding among SATRC members of recent developments in innovation and emerging technologies and their implications for future policy and regulatory frameworks.
- Enhanced cooperation among SATRC Members to address the challenging and related issues in a collective manner.
- Discussion will provide guidelines to SATRC Working Groups to develop tangible outcomes on the work items during the implementation of SATRC Plan Phase X.

5. Timing and location

The SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies will be held from 6 to 8 October 2026 in Kathmandu, Nepal. It will be hosted by Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA). Additional details will be provided in the 'Information for Participants' document.

6. Contact

APT Secretariat

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7. Tentative Draft Programme

The tentative programme of SATRC Workshop on Recent Trend and Technologies is provided in Annex A.

Tentative Draft Programme

SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies

Time	Tuesday, 6 October 2026
09:00 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:30	Opening • Welcome Address by Dr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity • Inaugural Address by Host (TBC) • Presentation of the token of appreciation (Group Photograph)
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee/Tea Break
10:45 – 11:30	Session 1 – Overview of the SATRC and the Workshop • Overview of the activities of SATRC, SATRC Action Plan Phase X and details of the SATRC Workshop on Recent Trends and Technologies – APT Secretariat • Keynote Presentation - Advancing Digital Transformation: Emerging Trends, Technologies and Regional Partnership - TBD
11:30 – 12:45	Session 2 – Harnessing Emerging Technologies for Sustainable, Inclusive, and Equitable Digital Transformation SATRC countries are advancing national digital strategies, expanding broadband infrastructure, developing digital public services and introducing emerging technologies to improve productivity, service delivery and social inclusion. The progress remains uneven due to differences in infrastructure availability, affordability, digital skills, institutional capacity, investment conditions and readiness to adopt new technologies. The Tokyo Statement, adopted at the APT Ministerial Meeting in May 2025, sets out a shared regional vision to support the digital transformation of economies and societies and deliver an open, interconnected, innovation-driven, inclusive, safe and sustainable digital future for all. It highlights the importance of universal and meaningful connectivity, innovation and entrepreneurship, trust and safety, digital inclusion, sustainability and strengthened regional cooperation. In this context, the session will provide a platform for SATRC members and relevant stakeholders to share national experiences, ongoing initiatives and policy approaches for digital transformation. The discussion will also consider the role of regulators and policymakers in creating enabling environments that encourage investment, innovation, competition, trust and responsible technology deployment.

	Moderator: TBC Speakers: TBC
12:45 – 14:15	Lunch Break
14:15 – 15:30	Session 3 – Satellite Connectivity in a New Era: Technology Trends, Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for South Asia. Satellite communications are becoming an increasingly important component of the connectivity ecosystem in South Asia, particularly for extending services to remote, mountainous, island and underserved areas. Rapid developments in high-throughput satellites, low-Earth-orbit constellations, non-terrestrial networks and direct-to-device connectivity are creating new opportunities to complement terrestrial networks, strengthen resilience and support emergency communications. For SATRC countries, satellite connectivity can help connect remote schools, health facilities and communities, strengthen disaster communications and improve network resilience. This session will focus on these emerging technologies and market trends and insights into recent technical developments, new service models and the evolving role of satellite communications within terrestrial and non-terrestrial networks. Related regulatory priorities/challenges and opportunities for South Asia will also be addressed. Session Moderator: TBC Speakers: TBC
15:30 – 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 – 17:00	Session 4 – Satellite Connectivity in a New Era: Technology Trends, Regulatory Challenges and Opportunities for South Asia. <i>(Continued from previous session)</i>
18:00	Welcome Dinner (TBD)
Time	Wednesday, 7 October 2026
9:30 – 10:45	Session 5: Next Generation Connectivity: Advancing 5G and Preparing for Future Networks The connectivity landscape across South Asia is evolving rapidly, driven by the continued expansion of mobile broadband, the deployment of 5G networks and the emergence of new technologies and service models. Progress varies across countries due to differences in market readiness, spectrum availability, infrastructure development, investment conditions, affordability and national policy priorities. This session will provide an overview of the status and development of next-generation connectivity across SATRC countries, with particular attention to 5G deployment, spectrum-related initiatives, policy and regulatory measures, infrastructure development and emerging applications.

	Further, the session will explore developments in 5G-Advanced, non-terrestrial networks, early preparations for 6G amongst others. The discussion will highlight global trends, technological advancements and good international practices and facilitate knowledge exchange and identifying practical priorities for accelerating advanced connectivity and preparing for future generations of communication networks. Session Moderator: TBC Speakers: TBC
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:30	Session 6: A Safe and Trusted Digital South Asia: Strengthening Privacy, Cybersecurity and Digital Resilience As digital services, online platforms and critical information infrastructure expand, the cybersecurity landscape is becoming increasingly complex and fast-moving. Emerging threats such as ransomware, phishing, supply-chain attacks, cloud vulnerabilities, AI-enabled attacks, identity theft and attacks on critical infrastructure are creating growing risks for governments, businesses and citizens. The session will examine national cybersecurity strategies, legal and regulatory frameworks, incident-response mechanisms and other measures being adopted to strengthen cyber resilience. It will also provide practical insights into emerging threats, new security technologies and current cybersecurity practices. The session aims to raise awareness among participants, strengthen understanding of emerging cyber risks and explore how administrations can keep pace through capacity building, threat intelligence sharing, public-private cooperation and stronger regional collaboration. Session Moderator: TBC Speakers: TBC
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:15	Session 7: Smart and Innovative Models for Digital Inclusion: Impact, Challenges and Lessons Learned The session will showcase smart and innovative digital solutions implemented across South Asia, highlighting their contribution to digital development, public service delivery and social and economic inclusion. It will examine the impact of these initiatives, the technical, institutional and policy/regulatory challenges encountered during implementation, and the practical lessons learned. The discussion will also provide insights into how successful solutions can be adapted, scaled and replicated across different national contexts in the region. Session Moderator: TBC Speakers: TBC
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee/Tea Break

15:45 – 17:00	Session 8: Smart and Innovative Models for Digital Inclusion: Impact, Challenges and Lessons Learned (Continued from previous session)
Time	Thursday, 8 October 2026
9:30 – 10:45	Session 9: Digital Public Infrastructure and Digital Identity: Foundations of Digital Economy Across South Asia, countries are at different stages of developing and implementing Digital Public Infrastructure and digital identity systems. While some countries have established population-scale identity, payment and data-sharing platforms, others are strengthening their legal, institutional and technological foundations. This session will examine the current status of DPI and digital identity initiatives across the region, including the technologies and architectures supporting their implementation. It will discuss key governance, policy and regulatory issues, including institutional coordination, interoperability, data protection, cybersecurity, consent, inclusion and public trust. The session will also highlight national experiences, implementation challenges and lessons learned in building secure, inclusive and interoperable digital ecosystems that support public-service delivery, private-sector innovation and broader digital economic development. Session Moderator: TBC Speakers: TBC
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee/Tea Break</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Session 10: Artificial Intelligence(AI) for Digital Transformation: Key Policy Priorities, Regulatory Approaches and Technological Advancements Artificial Intelligence is increasingly transforming the telecommunications and ICT sectors by improving network management, service delivery, cybersecurity, customer experience and the development of innovative digital solutions. At the same time, the adoption of AI raises important concerns relating to safety, security, trust, governance, skills and equitable access. SATRC Member administrations have varying levels of readiness and capacity to deploy AI technologies. Greater regional cooperation, knowledge sharing and capacity building are therefore essential to support responsible AI adoption based on national needs and priorities. Special attention is needed to ensure that LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS can participate meaningfully, benefit from emerging opportunities and address associated risks and challenges. It will also examine the development of appropriate policy and regulatory frameworks to support the safe, secure and trustworthy adoption of AI in the telecommunications and ICT sectors. The session will highlight how AI can enhance the delivery, efficiency and accessibility of ICT services, while fostering innovation,

	inclusion and sustainable digital transformation across the region. Further, the session will explore key developments in Artificial Intelligence, including emerging trends, technological advances, opportunities and challenges. Session Moderator: TBC Speakers: TBC
Intermission	
12:45 – 13:00	Session 10: Closing
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 18:00	Local site visit