

**13th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-13)**

Virtual Meeting, 29 - 30 September 2020

**CONCEPT NOTE**

1. **Background/Context**

Most of the Pacific countries share challenges and opportunities and its unique characteristics with sparely populated islands and expansive areas consisting of many remote islands. The common challenges include international connectivity, disaster management and climate change problem, etc. The policy and regulatory issues for telecommunication and ICT development faced by the Pacific are unique and requires its own platform to deal with issues.

The APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP) is a significant platform to deal with unique issues faced by the Pacific countries and it has become a premium event to address common challenges in Telecommunication and ICT Development issues of the Pacific countries. The PRFP has been a successful discussion platform for APT members in the Pacific and the 43rd Session of the Management Committee of the APT approved to organize the 13th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for the Pacific (PRFP-13) in 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, it is very difficult to organize a physical meeting for the PRFP-13. The APT Secretariat in consultation with the Office Bearers of the PRFP decided to organize a virtual meeting for the PRFP-13 with specific focus on issues that are necessary and required for the Pacific including the issues related to COVID-19.

The PRFP-13 will address various topics which are in line with the five Strategic Pillars of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 especially Connectivity, Innovation, and Trust Pillars. The PRFP-13 features overarching topics ranging from latest policy and regulation for the Pacific, connectivity, climate change and disaster management, and update on outcomes of the World Radiocommunication Conference 2019.

1. **Objectives**

The specific objectives for PRFP-13 are to:

* Update and discuss policy and regulation trends of the Pacific countries
* Share experience on the lesson learned from the COVID-19 outbreak and to deliberate on policy and regulatory measures for post-COVID-19 era
* Address connectivity issues including international connectivity through submarine cable and satellite communications, last mile access
* Update policy and regulation for managing climate change in the Pacific and share experience and lessons learnt from disaster management/climate change related projects
* Address major outcomes of ITU World Radio Conference 2019 that would impact to the Pacific Islands Countries

1. **Expected outcomes**

This time, the meeting is conducted as a virtual meeting due to the COVID-19 and number of sessions is limited for the current policy and regulatory issues including connectivity, climate change and disaster management and the outcome of WRC-19. The provisional agenda and tentative programme of the PRFP-13 are enclosed herewith and annexed to the concept note (See Annex A and B for more information).

Specific outcomes include but not limited to:

* Identified key policy and regulatory concerns of Member countries in the Pacific
* Common challenges and lesson learned from the COVID-19 outbreak and policy and regulatory measure for post-COVID-19 era are identified
* Enhanced awareness of policy makers and regulators on policy and regulatory consideration for post-COVID-19 era
* Enhanced understanding in various aspects such as policy and regulation and technology, and explore possible solutions on various topics of thematic sessions on Connectivity, Managing Disasters and Climate Change, and Outcomes of World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19)

1. **Timing**

The virtual meeting of the PRFP-13 will be a 2-day event from 29 to 30 September 2020 . The meeting will be organised via Zoom meeting platform from 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM (GMT+7).

1. **Participation**

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations, and eligible non-members can participate in the PRFP-13.

Participants will be provided with Zoom meeting link, meeting ID and password. Participants shall logon to meeting URL at the designated time and date. In order to have proper audio experience during the meeting, participants should be equipped with headset containing speakers and microphone. Please follow the guidelines in attending online meeting provided in an Introduction to APT Zoom meeting document.

1. **Contact persons:**

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| **APT Secretariat** |
| Mr. Pubate Satienpoch  Project Coordinator (Policy & Regulation)  Ms. Supitcha Chansak  Programme Secretary  Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT)  12/49 Soi 5, Chaeng Watthana Road  Bangkok 10210, Thailand  Tel: + 66 2 573 0044  Fax: +66 2 573 7479  E-mail : [aptpolicy@apt.int](mailto:aptict@apt.int) |

**Annex A**

**13th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-13)**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Outcomes of the 43rd Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRFP
4. Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020
5. Working Methods of PRFP
6. Roundtable onUpdates of Policy and Regulation in the Pacific
7. Thematic Sessions:
   1. Connectivity in the Pacific
   2. Managing Disasters and Climate Changes in the Pacific
   3. Outcome of World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) and Impacts on the Pacific
8. Nomination of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of PRFP
9. Date and Venue for PRFP-14
10. Any other matters
11. Closing

**Annex B**

**13th APT Policy and Regulation Forum for Pacific (PRFP-13)**

Virtual Meeting, 29-30 September 2020

**Tentative Programme**

| TIME | PROGRAMME |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Tuesday, 29 September 2020** |
| 09:00 – 09:15  (UTC+7) | **Opening**   * Welcome Address – Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT * Address – Chairman of PRFP   Group Photograph |
| 09:15 – 09:30  (UTC+7) | **Session 1** ***– Plenary***   * Adoption of Agenda * Outcomes of the 43rd Session of the Management Committee of the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity * Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 * Working Methods of PRFP |
| 09:30 - 10:45 (UTC+7) | **Session 2 - *Roundtable on Updates of Policy and Regulation in the Pacific***  *The Roundtable will invite high-level policy makers and regulators from APT Member Administrations to* *share experience and exchange views on latest updates of policy and regulatory issues in the Pacific.*  *COVID-19 impacts us globally and the Pacific is no exception. Panelists will be invited to also share lessons learned from the COVID-19 outbreak and the initiatives taken. It also provides an opportunity to address policy and regulatory measures for post-COVID-19 era .*  *Moderator: (tbd);*   * Updates of Policy and Regulation in the Pacific * Lesson learned from COVID-19 pandemic * Policy and Regulatory measures for post-COVID-19 * Q&A   ***Panelists:***   * High-level Policy Makers and Regulators from Member Administrations |
| 10:45 – 11:00 (UTC+7) | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 11:00 – 12:15 (UTC+7) | **Session 3 : *Connectivity in the Pacific***  *This session discusses international connectivity through various submarine cable projects and satellite communications including new technologies of both technologies and their impacts. As many countries have different status and readiness to be connected, the session will highlight status of different countries and their choices for connectivity. It also discusses options for last mile connectivity that are reliable, affordable to ensure good quality of service*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics :   * New Submarine Cable Projects, New Satellite Technologies and their impacts * Situation/Readiness of Countries in the Pacific on Connectivity * Last Mile Connectivity for the Pacific   Speakers:   * Members/Affiliate Members *(TBC)* |
|  | **Wednesday, 30 September 2020** |
| 9:00 - 10:15 (UTC+7) | **Session 4 :** ***Managing Disaster and Climate Change in the Pacific***  *Disaster Management and Climate Change are essential issues in the Pacific as it is the highest disaster-prone region in the world. The session will update information on policy and regulation for climate change, and share experiences and lessons from past and ongoing projects. It also informs the members of available technologies and how to apply them for disaster management.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics:   * Policy and Regulation for Managing Climate Change in the Pacific * Disaster Management/Climate Change Related Project in the region * Technologies for Disaster Management in the Pacific * Renewable Energy for Disaster Management in the Pacific   Panelists:   * Members / Associate Members in the Pacific *(TBC)* * World Food Programme *(TBC)* * Affiliate Members *(TBC)* |
| 10:15 – 10:30 (UTC+7) | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:30 - 11:45 (UTC+7) | **Session 5 : *Outcome of World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19) and Impacts on the Pacific***  *This session highlights the major outcomes of ITU World Radio Conferences 2019 which would impact to the Pacific Islands Countries. This session would intend to identify issues for future collaboration among Pacific Island Countries.*  *Moderator : (TBD)*  Topics :   * Outcomes of WRC-19 and its impacts * Efficient way to manage national spectrum information   Speakers:   * ITU *(TBC)* * Mobile Industry *(TBC)* * Satellite Industry *(TBC)* * APT Secretariat |
| 11:45 – 12:15 (UTC+7) | **Session 6 : *Plenary - Way Forward and Closing***   * Nomination of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of PRFP * Date and Venue of PRFP-14 * Any other matters   Closing   * Remarks by Secretary General of the APT * Remarks and closing by Chairman of PRFP |