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**The 22nd APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-22)**

19 - 21 July 2022, Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid)

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**1. Background/Context**

The Asia-Pacific region continues to experience an extraordinary growth in the field of Telecommunication/ICT sector. However, due to the vastness and diverse nature of region spanning geography, culture, climate and ethnicity amongst others, Asia Pacific countries are in different stages of development. In light of this, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) plays a pivotal role in bringing equal representations and voices from every part of the region through various high-level events.

The APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF) is an annual APT event where policy makers and regulatory authorities meet to discuss common Telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory issues in the APT region. It also serves as an important platform for industry leaders to share their concerns and views in relation to policy and regulatory measures. In particular, this event is a high-level forum where important delegations from various Ministries and Regulatory Authorities from the region partake to deliberate on key regional issues. It also emphasizes identifying mutual ground and collaborative approaches in addressing policy and regulatory challenges relevant to the region. For over two decades, the APT PRF has been underlining the important role of the APT in shaping key Telecommunication/ICT policies in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Strategic Plan of the APT for 2021-2023 provides guidelines for the activities of the APT. This year is the second year of the implementation period which aims to accelerate the digital transformation of the economy and society in the Asia-Pacific region by realizing the benefits of Telecommunication/ICT and coping with the challenges of rapidly evolving Telecommunication/ICT environments. Subsequently, in line with the visions outlined in the Strategic Plan for 2021-2023, PRF provides new insights and awareness that are key to driving digital transformation of economy and society in this rapidly evolving telecommunication/ICT ecosystem.

The primary objective of the forum is to bring policy makers, regulators and industry leaders from the region together on a common arena for a dialogue on issues faced by them as a result of the unprecedented changes taking place in the Telecommunications/ICT sectors. The forum is also expected to recall and reaffirm the pledges/commitments of Singapore Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Co-creating a connected digital future in the Asia-Pacific. The forum will also feature thematic sessions on topics that are of interest to the region.

The 45th Management Committee (MC-45) meeting held virtually from 30 November-3 December 2022 approved the holding of PRF-22.

In the special session of PRF-22, Ministers/Vice Ministers from APT Member Administrations will share insights, experiences, lessons learned, policies being implemented in their countries with regard to digital transformation and innovation strategies which are in line with the objective of the Singapore Statement adopted by the ICT Ministers of APT.

In the special roundtable session, the Head of the Regulators from APT Member Administrations will share their insights and experiences as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges, opportunities and possible way forward towards the new concept of the regulatory framework i.e. 5th Generation (G5) of Regulation.

PRF-22 will also arrange a business dialogue session providing a platform for industry representatives to share their views on viable 5G ecosystem. Feasible 5G models are related to both the market uptakes and the long-term market developments. This session will offer an opportunity to discuss economic and financial approaches to building sustainable 5G ecosystem. In addition, there will be another business dialogue session on regulatory implications and impacts of emerging technologies on economy and ICT landscape. The session will provide an opportunity to share experiences on some of the regulatory approaches and frameworks as well as challenges and ways forward related to emerging technologies

Lastly, the forum features thematic sessions on ‘Resilient Network and Disaster Management’, ‘Quality of Service and Quality of Experience - Challenges and Way forward’, ‘Awareness and Promote National Cybersecurity’ and ‘Inclusive National Digital Policy: Connect the Unconnected’.

**2. Objectives**

APT PRF provides an opportunity to share and address the key issues and concerns of APT Members as well as to facilitate intra-regional collaboration on policy and regulatory issues as required. Industry leaders and other key stakeholders also share their views on major issues that are currently faced by the sector.

The specific objectives for PRF-22 are to:

* Discuss the recent best practices of digital development in Asia-Pacific countries as well as the policy strategies and approaches that allow governments, businesses, and citizens to leverage digital transformation.
* Best practices of innovation strategies and role of government and regulators to support innovation.
* Share insights and experiences as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges, opportunities and possible way forward towards 5th Generation (G5) of Regulation.
* Share challenges in developing 5G ecosystem and discuss the economic and financial approaches to build sustainable 5G ecosystem.
* Address the challenges and approaches of the regulators in terms of emerging technologies and discuss the possible way forward.
* Share best practices, policies and strategies for sustainable, reliable and resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services to secure their availability during disasters.
* Address the challenges and way forward of Quality of Service and Quality of Experience.
* Increase awareness and promote national cybersecurity.
* Share best practices as well as focus on the challenges and prospects of inclusive national digital policies, strategies, practices and activities to connect the unconnected.

**3. Expected outcomes**

The Forum will be held in Bangkok, Thailand with hybrid format (both physical and virtual/online attendance through APT Zoom meeting). The Provisional Agenda and Tentative Programme of PRF-22 are enclosed herewith and annexed to the concept note (See Annex A and B for more information).

Specific outcomes include but are not limited to:

* Lessons learnt from the recent best practices of digital development in Asia-Pacific countries as well as the policy strategies and approaches that allow governments, businesses, and citizens to leverage digital transformation.
* Enhanced knowledge on the best practices of innovation strategies and role of government and regulators to support innovation.
* Better understanding of the challenges, opportunities and possible way forward towards 5th Generation (G5) Collaborative Regulation.
* Improved insights on the challenges in developing 5G ecosystem and discuss the economic and financial approaches to build sustainable 5G ecosystem.
* Identify the challenges and approaches of the regulators in terms of emerging technologies and discuss the possible way forward.
* Enhanced understanding on the best practices, policies and strategies for sustainable, reliable and resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services to secure their availability during disasters.
* Improved understanding of the challenges and way forward of Quality of Service and Quality of Experience.
* Lessons learnt on how to increase awareness and promote the national cybersecurity.
* Better perception on the best practices as well as focus on the challenges and prospects of inclusive national digital policies, strategies, practices and activities to connect the unconnected.

**4. Timing**

PRF-22 will be a 3-day event from 19 to 21 July 2022. It will be held in Bangkok, Thailand with hybrid format (both physical and virtual/online attendance through APT Zoom meeting) from 09:00 hrs. – 17:00 hrs. (UTC+7). The third day sessions of PRF-22 will be finished by 12:00 hrs. (UTC+7) and followed by a back-to-back workshop *(to be determined)*.

**5. Participation**

All APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations and eligible non-members can participate in the PRF-22.

**6. Contact Information**

For any further information about PRF-22, please contact to:

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**Annex A**

**The 22nd APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-22)**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Chair of PRF
4. Election of Vice-Chairs of PRF
5. Outcomes of the 45th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRF
6. Ministerial Session: Digital Transformation and Innovation Strategies for Sustainable Digital Society
7. Regulators’ Roundtable: Towards the new Concept of the Regulatory Framework
8. Business Dialogue:
   * Developing the 5G Ecosystem
   * Emerging Technologies – Regulatory Implications and Impacts on Economy and ICT Landscape
9. Thematic Sessions:
   * Resilient Network and Disaster Management
   * Quality of Service and Quality of Experience - Challenges and Way Forward
   * Awareness and Promote National Cybersecurity
   * Inclusive National Digital Policy: Connect the Unconnected
10. Date and Venue for PRF-23
11. Any Other Matters
12. Closing

**Annex B**

**The 22nd APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-22)**

**Tentative Programme**

| TIME | PROGRAMME |
| --- | --- |
| **Day – 1**  (UTC +7) | **Tuesday, 19 July 2022** |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | **Registration** |
| 09:30 – 10:00 | **Opening**   * Welcome Remarks by Mr. Masanori Kondo, Secretary General of APT * Opening Remarks by Mr. Trieu Minh Long, Chair of PRF   (Group Photograph) |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | **Session 1**: **Plenary**   * Adoption of the Agenda * Election of Chair of PRF * Election of Vice-Chairs of PRF * Outcomes of the 45th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRF |
| 11:15 – 12:30 | **Session 2 (Ministerial Session): Digital Transformation and Innovation Strategies for Sustainable Digital Society**  *Digital transformation influences the way Governments, businesses, and citizens work and live. Hi-speed broadband connectivity and access, ICT centric innovative technologies and services, secured, trusted and resilient ICT networks and services, human and institutional capacity with basic and advanced ICT skills are key elements contributed to speed of the digital transformation.*  *This session will discuss the recent best practices of digital development in Asia-Pacific countries as well as the policy strategies and approaches that allow governments, businesses, and citizens to leverage digital transformation.*  *The session will invite Ministers/Vice Ministers from APT Member Administrations to* *share insights, experiences, lessons learned, policies being implemented in their countries, etc. with regard to digital transformation and innovation strategies which is in line with the objective of the Singapore Statement adopted by the ICT Ministers of APT.*  ***Topics:***   * Sharing best practices of digital transformation and innovation strategies * Economic and financial approach to forge digital transformation and innovation in all levels * Policy dimensions as well as their opportunities and challenges to leverage digital transformation and innovation * How can industry maintain a competitive edge as well as sustainability? * Recommendation for better policies in the digital age   ***Speakers:***   * Honorable Ministers/Vice Ministers from Member Administrations |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:15 | **Session 3 (Regulators’ Roundtable): Towards the new Concept of the Regulatory Framework**  *There is a new concept of the regulatory framework as the “5th Generation of Regulation”. This 5th Generation (G5) of Regulation focuses on a collaborative regulation that may be derived as the vision of the regulators to foster the development of the Telecom and ICT sector during the age of digital transformation, innovations and emerging technologies. The primary aim is to enhance collaborations across the sectors and create proficiencies across public administration bodies.*  *The collaborative regulatory approaches as well as enabling policy frameworks are the key to move forward. The paradigms of digital development are moving dynamically in different directions. Hence, the regulators need to concentrate on innovative tools and approaches to lead the way while constructing policies. The uniqueness of these dynamic issues and complexity of innovation/transformation have created different ecosystems, which drives Telecom and ICT regulators to lead the way through transformational leadership and move towards collaborative regulation.*  *The Roundtable will invite the Head of the Regulators from APT Member Administrations to share their insights and experiences as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges, opportunities and possible way forward towards 5th Generation (G5) of Regulation.*  ***Moderator: (tbd)***  ***Topics:***   * Sharing the insights and experiences of 5th Generation (G5) of Regulation * Challenges and opportunities of 5th Generation (G5) of regulation * Recommendations for achieving the vision of 5th Generation (G5) of regulation * Q&A   ***Speakers:***   * Honorable Head of the Regulators from Member Administrations |
| 15:15– 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 4 (Business Dialogue): Developing the 5G Ecosystem**  *In recent years, 5G adoption has been viewed as a race, with the earliest adopters seen as the "winners" of the biggest business opportunities and the first chances to sell the new technology to customers. But the arrangement of 5G issues and challenges have caused deployment to play out a bit differently than anticipated. Feasible 5G models are related to both the market uptakes and the long-term market developments. Bearing in mind the diverse approaches in the Asia-Pacific region, one of the important aspects would be how to bridge the connectivity gaps. Another important aspect would be feasible 5G concept (licensing, one vs multiple networks, regulatory prerequisites etc.) and how to foster the meaningful use of 5G. The session intends to discuss these issues and find the way forward.*  ***Moderator: (tbd)***  ***Topics:***   * Viable business models for 5G * Challenges in developing 5G ecosystem * Economic and financial approaches to build sustainable 5G ecosystem * Fostering meaningful 5G use-cases * Roles of Regulators and Industry players * Way forward * Q&A   ***Speakers:***   * Industry Representatives |
| **Day – 2**  (UTC +7) | **Wednesday, 20 July 2022** |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | **Session 5: Resilient Network and Disaster Management**  *The session expects vibrant discussion among APT Member Administrations as well as Industry representatives regarding best practices, policies and strategies for sustainable, reliable and resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services to secure their availability during disasters. The session will also discuss the feasible ways to provide support during all phases of disaster management including dissemination of information to assist public safety, health and disaster-relief efforts and removal of restrictions for an efficient mobilization of telecommunication resources.*    ***Moderator: (tbd)***  ***Topics:***   * National telecommunication/ICT policies and strategies for sustainable, reliable and resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services during natural disasters * Challenges in mobilizing telecommunication resources * Challenges related to disaster preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation * New ICT technologies and their roles in disaster management * Sharing of information, best practices and telecommunication/ICT based solutions * Way forward * Q&A   ***Speakers:***   * Member Administrations * Industry Representatives |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Coffee / Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:15  (UTC+7) | **Session 6: (Business Dialogue): Emerging Technologies – Regulatory Implications and Impacts on Economy and ICT Landscape**  *New and emerging technologies are growing at an unprecedented pace which is affecting existing regulatory approaches and frameworks. As a result of such a dynamic ecosystem, government and regulators are facing difficulties towards designing and addressing challenges to cope with technological progress and its impact. The session will address the challenges and approaches of the regulators in terms of emerging technologies and will recommend a possible way forward.*  ***Moderator: (tbd)***  ***Topics:***   * New and emerging technologies in terms of regulatory context * How are regulators coping with emerging technologies? * Sharing experiences on some of the regulatory approaches and frameworks * Regulatory challenges * Way forward * Q&A   ***Speakers:***   * Industry Representatives |
| 12:15 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | **Session 7: Quality of Service and Quality of Experience - Challenges and Way forward**  *The past few decades have seen the outburst of many new and next generation emerging technologies. One of the key drivers of these emerging technologies is Quality of Service (QoS) and Quality of Experience (QoE). While the features and price are the determining factors in adopting the product/technology, QoS and QoE remain the key differentiators among the consumers. However, there are inherent challenges that impact the QoS and QoE.  The session will discuss the regulatory and policy aspects to address the challenges and way forward regarding QoS and QoE in the context of emerging technologies.*  ***Moderator: (tbd)***  ***Topics:***   * How to define QoS and QoE in the context of emerging technologies? * Challenges faced by consumers * Challenges faced by service providers * Role of government and regulators in ensuring rollout of technologies that are fit-for-purpose * Way forward * Q&A   ***Speakers***:   * Member Administrations * Industry Representatives |
| 15:30 – 15:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:45 – 17:15 | **Session 8: Awareness and Promote National Cybersecurity**  *Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) Expert Mission was conducted for the Government of Thailand following a request for assistance to provide recommendations and guidelines for developing a national cybersecurity personnel development plan. Upon detailed analysis, both short-term tactical steps, and medium to long-term strategic steps have been recommended to address future cybersecurity skills and workforce requirements, which that could be considered as part of the efforts to advance Thailand’s maturity to develop a cybersecurity workforce.*  *The session will also focus on the best practices and lesson learnt from similar projects conducted in other APT Member Administrations.*  ***Moderator: (tbd)***  ***Topics:***   * Keynote presentation by Protection Group International * Key findings and recommendations * Lessons learnt from the mission * Sharing of other Members’ best practices * Q&A   ***Speakers:***   * Member Administrations * Industry Representatives |
| **Day – 3**  (UTC +7) | **Thursday, 21 July 2022** |
| 09:00 – 10:30 | **Session 9: Inclusive National Digital Policy: Connect the Unconnected**  *It is important to promote widespread digital adoption through providing access to telecommunications/ICT for all citizens so that they can participate and contribute to digital economy and society. This require facilitating the spread of the basic ICT skills and digital literacy for the citizens, making telecommunications/ICT services more accessible affordable and usable specially for youth and women.*  *In Asia-Pacific region, women and are significantly left behind in Telecommunications/ICT and digital entrepreneurship careers. The equal representation of women in technology is important to build a productive digital future and better society.*  *Young people are our leaders of tomorrow. Addressing the appropriate actions to enhance their digital literacy and skills will empower them to face the challenges of this dynamically changing digital society.*  *This session will share best practices as well as focus on the challenges and prospects of inclusive national digital policies, strategies, practices and activities.*  ***Moderator: (tbd)***  ***Topics:***   * Sharing of insights and experiences on inclusive national digital policies, strategies and activities * Challenges and prospects * Way forward * Q&A   ***Speakers:***   * Member Administrations * International Organizations * Industry Representatives |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | **Session 10: Plenary**  Session Chair: Chair of PRF   * Way Forward * Date and Venue for PRF-23 * Any other matters   **Closing**   * Remarks by Secretary General of APT * Remarks and Closing by Chair of PRF |
| 12:00 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
|  | **Back-to-back Workshop, if any** |
| 14:00 – 15:30 | TBD |