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**The 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-24)**

16 - 18 July 2024, Chiang Mai, Thailand (Hybrid)

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**1. Background**

The Asia-Pacific region is undergoing an exceptional surge in the Telecommunication/ICT sector. Nevertheless, the vast expanse and diverse nature of the region, encompassing a broad spectrum of geography, culture, climate, ethnicity, and other such factors, have resulted in Asia Pacific nations being at different stages of development.

The Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) portrays a pivotal role in providing various high-level discussion platforms where members exchange best practices, experiences, insights, and voices from every part of the region. And the APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF) is an annual APT event where policymakers and regulatory authorities meet to discuss common telecommunication/ICT policy and regulatory issues. It also serves as an important platform for industry leaders to share their concerns and views in relation to policy and regulatory measures. This event is a high-level forum where high-level officials of Ministries and Regulatory Authorities from the region partake to deliberate on key telecommunication/ICT issues and to find a mutual ground to collaborate.

On the other hand, the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2024-2026 provides guidelines for the activities of the APT. This year is the first year of the implementation period which aims to accelerate the development of telecommunication/ICT for fostering growth of economy and society in the Asia-Pacific region by enhancing digital connectivity, digital transformation, trust and safety, digital inclusion and sustainability. Subsequently, in line with the visions outlined in the Strategic Plan for 2024-2026, PRF provides a key platform to accelerate digital connectivity, digital transformation, trust and safety, digital inclusion and sustainability in the rapidly evolving telecommunication/ICT ecosystem of this region.

The primary objective of the forum is to bring policymakers, regulators and industry leaders from the region together in a common arena for a dialogue on issues faced by them as a result of the unprecedented changes taking place in the telecommunications/ICT sector. The forum is also expected to recall and reaffirm the pledges/commitments of the 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 of interest to the region.

**2. Objectives**

APT PRF provides an opportunity to share and address the key issues and concerns of APT Members and 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 the sector currently faces.

The specific objectives for PRF-24 are to:

* Share the recent best practices of smart governance as well as the policy strategies and approaches that allow governments, businesses, and citizens to leverage digital transformation and innovation.
* Share insights and experiences as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges, opportunities and possible way forward regarding conducive ICT policies for inclusive and universal digital landscape.
* Highlight the importance of charting the future of ICT in this evolving era.
* Reveal the benefits of complimentary access solutions.
* Share innovative policy approaches to connect the unconnected
* Share best practices, policies and strategies for sustainable, reliable, resilient and emergency telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services to secure their availability during climate change and disasters.
* Discover the potential of 6G/IMT-2030.
* Share the experiences, policies and regulations on cyber bullying, online scams, inappropriate, misleading, or illegal content etc. to enhance the awareness of cyber wellness.
* Emphasize the benefits of the internet for all.

**3. Expected outcomes**

The Provisional Agenda and Tentative Programme of PRF-24 are attached to this concept note (Please see Annex A and B for more information).

At PRF-24, there will be a session for Ministers, Vice-Ministers and high-level officials from APT Member Administrations where they will share strategies, insights, experiences and policies being implemented in their countries with regard to smart governance.

There will also be a roundtable session where the Heads of the Regulators from APT Member Administrations will share their insights and experiences as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges and opportunities on inclusive and universal digital landscape.

In addition, PRF-24 will also arrange two business dialogue sessions that aim to create an opportunity for the industry representatives to share their views on contemporary ICT issues.

Other topics, such as climate change and disaster management, cyber wellness, emerging technologies, inclusive and universal service, sustainability etc. will be covered throughout the forum.

Specific outcomes include but are not limited to:

* Lessons learned from the recent best practices of smart governance as well as the policy strategies and approaches that allow governments, businesses, and citizens to leverage digital transformation and innovation.
* Better understanding of the challenges, opportunities, and possible way forward regarding conducive ICT policies for inclusive and universal digital landscape.
* Enhanced insight on importance of charting the future of ICT in this evolving era.
* Better understanding on complimentary access solutions.
* Improved perception of the best practices as well as focus on the challenges and prospects of inclusive and universal national digital policies, strategies, practices, and activities to connect the unconnected.
* Enhanced awareness of the best practices, policies, and strategies for sustainable, reliable, resilient, and emergency telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services to secure their availability during climate change and disasters.
* Develop insights on advancement of 6G/IMT-2030.
* Enhanced awareness on cyber wellness, cyber bullying, online scams, inappropriate, misleading or illegal content etc.
* Improved understanding of issues related to internet for all such as interoperability, data privacy, security concerns, multilingualism in domain names, internet fragmentation and so on.

**4. Timing and Venue**

PRF-24 will be a two and half day event from 16 to 18 July 2024. It will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand with physical attendance as well as virtual/online participation through Zoom meeting (hybrid meeting). Please see information for participants for more information.

**5. Participation**

APT Members, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, International/Regional Organizations and eligible non-members can participate in the PRF-24.

**6. Contact Information**

For any further information about PRF-24, please contact to:

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**Annex A**

**The 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-24)**

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA**

1. Opening
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of the Chair of PRF
4. Election of the Vice-Chairs of PRF
5. Outcomes of the 16th Session of the General Assembly and the 47th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRF
6. Consideration of the documents allocated to the Plenary

* Report of the Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation

1. High-Level Dialogue: Smart Governance: Navigating Digital Transformation and Innovation
2. Regulators’ Roundtable: Conducive ICT Policies and Regulations for Inclusive and Universal Digital Landscape
3. Business Dialogues:
   * TechForesight: Charting the Future of ICT in the Era of Innovation and Connectivity
   * Evolutionary Leap: Unveiling the Potential of 6G/IMT-2030
4. Thematic Sessions:
   * Connectivity Catalysts: Advancing Access with Complementary Solutions
   * Innovative Policy Approaches to Connect the Unconnected
   * Cyber Wellness in a Hyperconnected World
   * Crisis to Resilience: Forging a Resilient Path in Climate Change and Disaster Management
   * Inclusive Internet: Bridging Divides in the Internet Realm
5. Consideration of the output documents

* APT Guideline on Good Practices for Public Consultation

1. Way forward
2. Date and venue for PRF-25
3. Any other matters
4. Closing

**Annex B**

**The 24th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-24)**

**Tentative Programme**

| TIME | PROGRAMME |
| --- | --- |
| **Day – 1**  (UTC +7) | **Tuesday, 16 July 2024** |
| 08:00 – 09:30 | **Registration** |
| 09:30 – 09:45 | **Opening**   * Welcome Remarks by the Secretary General of APT * Opening Remarks by the Chair of PRF |
| 09:45 – 10:15 | **Session 1**: **Plenary**   * Adoption of the Agenda * Election of the Chair of PRF * Election of the Vice-Chairs of PRF * Outcomes of the 16th Session of the General Assembly and the 47th Session of the Management Committee of the APT relevant to PRF * Consideration of the documents allocated to the Plenary * Report of the Rapporteur Group on Public Consultation   (Group Photograph) |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **Session 2 (High-Level Dialogue)**  **Smart Governance: Navigating Digital Transformation and Innovation**  In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, governments worldwide are embracing technology-driven strategies to enhance governance and propel their nations forward. This session will delve into the realm of smart governance, exploring how digital transformation and innovation are fostering the growth of this region.  This session will share the recent best practices of smart governance in Asia-Pacific countries that promote governments, businesses, and citizens to leverage digital transformation and innovation.  The session will invite Ministers, Vice Ministers and High-level officials from APT Member Administrations to introduce their strategies, insights, experiences, policies being implemented in their countries, with regard to smart governance.  The topics to be covered in this session include:   * Sharing best practices of smart governance * Policies, initiatives, strategies and approaches to leverage smart governance digital transformation and innovation * Socio-economic impacts of smart governance, digital transformation and innovation * Recommendation for better policies in this digital era   **Moderator:**  (TBD)  **Speakers:**   * Ministers, Vice Ministers and High-level officials from APT Member Administrations |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch Break |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | **Session 3 (Regulators’ Roundtable)**  **Conducive ICT Policies and Regulations for Inclusive and Universal Digital Landscape**  The session will delve the pivotal role of conducive ICT policies in shaping an inclusive and universal digital landscape. Through an exploration of policy frameworks and their impact on digital accessibility, participants will gain insights into crafting strategies that ensure equitable access to digital resources and services for all members of society. The session will uncover best practices for designing and implementing ICT policies that bridge digital divides and empower marginalized communities through real-world examples and discussions,  The Roundtable will invite the Heads 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 inclusive and universal digital landscape.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Sharing insights and experiences on inclusive and universal digital landscape * Administrative, economic and financial approach to forge inclusive and universal digital landscape * Policy dimensions as well as their opportunities and challenges * Recommendations for crafting conducive ICT policies * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)  **Speakers:**   * Heads of the Regulators from APT Member Administrations |
| 14:45– 15:15 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:15 – 16:30 | **Session 4 (Business Dialogue)**  **TechForesight: Charting the Future of ICT in the Era of Innovation and Connectivity**  This forward-looking session will embark on a journey to explore the evolving landscape of Inform ICT in an era characterized by rapid innovation and connectivity. Through dynamic discussions and expert insights, the session will provide a valuable perspective on how advancements such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT), 5G and other emerging technologies are revolutionizing industries, societies, and economies. The session will also explore the challenges and opportunities presented by these technological developments and discuss strategies for harnessing their potential for positive impact.  The Roundtable will invite the CxOs of the ICT Industry to share their insights and experiences as well as engage in dialogue to identify the challenges, opportunities and possible way forward regarding future of ICT in the era of innovation and connectivity.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Technology forecast in next decade with their potential challenges and opportunities * Administrative, economic and financial initiatives/approaches to build sustainable ICT ecosystem for emerging technologies * Discussions on conducive policy and regulatory framework at evolving ICT era * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)  **Speakers:**   * ICT Industry CxOs |
| 16:30 | (Networking Session) |
| **Day – 2**  (UTC +7) | **Wednesday, 17 July 2024** |
| 09:00 – 10:15 | **Session 5** *(in collaboration with ISOC)*  **Connectivity Catalysts: Advancing Access with Complementary Solutions**  The session will engage in discussing the current best practices and latest developments in the complimentary access solutions from Asia-Pacific region, and how they are empowering rural and remote populations and providing socio-economic development.    The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Sharing best technical and policy practices on complimentary access solutions. * Sharing information as well as experiences. * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)    **Speakers:**   * Member Administrations * International Organizations * Industry Representatives |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **Session 6** *(in collaboration with ISOC)*  **Innovative Policy Approaches to Connect the Unconnected**    The session will discuss current and emerging connectivity needs and what policy measures can help accelerate the deployment of complimentary access solutions to unserved areas.    The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Policy and regulatory best practices around technology, spectrum licensing and funding to support complimentary access solutions. * Challenges and opportunities * Way forward * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)    **Speakers:**   * Member Administrations * International Organizations |
| 12:00 – 13:30 | Lunch Hosted by ISOC |
| 13:30 – 14:45 | **Session 7** *(in collaboration with ASEAN)*  **Cyber Wellness in a Hyperconnected World**  By fostering a culture of cyber wellness and promoting proactive cybersecurity practices, we can collectively safeguard our online communities from malicious actors and ensure a more secure digital future for all. The session will discuss the essential knowledge and skills to navigate the digital landscape safely amidst the complexities of our hyperconnected society. With a primary focus on online safety, particularly addressing the prevalent threat of cyber scams, this session aims to empower participants to protect themselves and their digital assets effectively. The session will delve into the diverse array of cyber scams that lurk in the virtual realm, by dissecting real-life case studies and engaging in dynamic discussions, the session will provide valuable insights into recognizing the telltale signs of these scams and implementing proactive measures to mitigate risks.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Sharing information, best practices, experience, related policies and regulations of cyber wellness, cyber bullying, online scams, etc. * Challenges and way forward * Recommendations for cyber wellness * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)  **Speakers:**   * Member Administrations * International Organizations * Industry Representatives |
| 14:45 – 15:15 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 15:15 – 16:30 | **Session 8 (Business Dialogue)**  **Evolutionary Leap: Unveiling the Potential of 6G/IMT-2030**  This session will embark on an exploration of the next evolutionary leap in wireless communication technology: 6G/IMT-2030. With the potential to revolutionize connectivity and empower a wide range of industries, these advancements represent a significant milestone in the evolution of telecommunications. The session will provide a comprehensive understanding of the anticipated capabilities and applications of 6G/IMT 2030. It will also explore how these technologies can enable ultra-high-speed, low-latency communication, support massive IoT deployments, and facilitate groundbreaking innovations in areas such as healthcare, transportation, and manufacturing. Additionally, the session will examine the technical challenges and regulatory considerations associated with the deployment of 6G/IMT-2030, as well as the potential socioeconomic impacts on global economies and societies.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Challenges, opportunities and applications for transforming lives * Potential business models * Challenges in developing ecosystem * Roles of ICT Regulators and Industry players * Way forward * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)  **Speakers:**  Industry Representatives |
| 16:30 | (Networking Session) |
| **Day – 3**  (UTC +7) | **Thursday, 18 July 2024** |
| 09:00 – 10:15 | **Session 9**  **Crisis to Resilience: Forging a Resilient Path in Climate Change and Disaster Management**  The session will explore the journey from crisis to resilience in the face of climate change and disaster management challenges. Through insightful discussions and expert insights, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the strategies and initiatives necessary to build resilience and adaptability in the wake of environmental crises. The session will also examine the impacts of climate change and natural disasters on communities, economies, and ecosystems, and explore innovative approaches to disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. By highlighting successful case studies and best practices from around the world, the session will identify actionable steps and opportunities for collaboration in building a more resilient future.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Sharing policies and strategies for sustainable, reliable and resilient telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services regarding climate change and disaster management * Challenges related to preparedness, risk reduction and mitigation * Innovative solutions and their roles in climate change and disaster management * Way forward * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)  **Speakers:**   * Member Administrations * International Organizations * Industry Representatives |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | Coffee/Tea Break |
| 10:45 – 12:00 | **Session 10**  **Inclusive Internet: Bridging Divides in the Internet Realm**  The session will delve into the importance of seamless connectivity in bringing together the diverse elements of the internet landscape. As our reliance on digital technologies grows, the ability to seamlessly connect across various devices, platforms, and networks becomes increasingly vital. The session will explore the technological innovations and infrastructure developments that are driving towards seamless connectivity. It will also highlight the challenges associated with achieving this goal, such as interoperability, data privacy, and security concerns, multilingualism in domain names, internet fragmentation etc. and examine strategies for addressing them. Furthermore, the session will highlight the potential benefits of unified internet connectivity, including enhanced communication, collaboration, and access to information and services. Real-world case studies and success stories will illustrate how seamless connectivity can lead to positive outcomes for individuals, businesses, and societies.  The topics to be discussed in this session include:   * Policy and regulatory issues, challenges, opportunities and way forward * Responsibilities of stakeholders * Q&A   **Moderator:**  (TBD)  **Speakers:**   * Member Administrations * International Organizations * Industry Representatives |
| 12:00 – 12:15 | **Session 11: Plenary**   * Consideration of the output documents * APT Guideline on Good Practices for Public Consultation * Way forward * Date and venue for PRF-25 * Any other matters |
| 12:15 – 12:30 | **Closing**   * Remarks by the Secretary General of APT * Remarks and Closing by the Chair of PRF |
| 12:30 – 14:00 | Lunch Break |
| 14:00 | (Networking Session) |