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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE  
PACIFIC (UNESCAP)

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY (APT)

Tenth Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and  
Communication Technologies (ICT)

1 December 2006  
Bangkok

**DRAFT REPORT**

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This document has been issued without formal editing.

## I. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

1. The Tenth Meeting of the Regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication Technology (IWG) was held at UNCC, Bangkok on 1 December 2006. It was jointly organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), the International Telecommunication Union Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ITU ROAP), and the Asia Pacific Telecommunity (APT). The Meeting had discussions on programmes and initiatives as follow up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and proposals for partnership and cooperation for ICT4D. The meeting was attended by representatives of nine United Nations Organizations, International/Regional and Inter-governmental Organizations including the UNESCAP Secretariat. The list of the participants is attached.
2. The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr Siva Thampi, Director, Information, Communication and Space Technology. In his opening statement, Mr Siva Thampi, Director, Information, Communication and Space Technology Division (ICSTD), UNESCAP, welcomed and thanked the participants for their continuous cooperation and support provided to the work of the Regional Interagency Working Group on ICT since its inception. Mr. Thampi pointed out that the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) highlighted the importance of the regional dimensions of the Information Society, and that the Summit assigned to the Regional Commissions the task of moderating and facilitating the implementation of action line C11, International and regional cooperation, of the WSIS Plan of Action.
3. Mr. Thampi also reported that UNESCAP established the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT) in June 2006 in Incheon, the Republic of Korea. The Centre aimed at improving knowledge and productivity for long-term economic growth and sustainable development of the region, and is expected to contribute to bridging the digital divide. Finally, Mr. Thampi urged the members for joint and concrete efforts in the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes and Regional Action Plan, as they were vitally important towards

bridging the digital divide and in building an information and knowledge-based society in the region, to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration.

4. In his statement, Mr Amrendra Narayan, Executive Director, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity (APT) welcomed the members of the IWG and mentioned that the regional interagency working group on ICT was established in 2001 with the aim of bringing synergies and developing partnership among the members. He urged all the members to work together, develop multi-stakeholder partnership towards the effective and efficient implementation of WSIS. He also urged the members to have a joint calendar of meetings so that there would be no conflict or overlap of the ICT related activities, and also, to go to the donors for funding supports of the WSIS follow up and implementation projects.
5. In her opening remarks, Ms. Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ITU ROAP) stressed on the need to strengthen partnerships based on the competencies of the members while implementing the WSIS action lines. She detailed the various initiatives and partnerships that ITU had planned for the region in the long and short term, especially those relating to the five regional initiatives viz., ICT policy and regulatory cooperation in the Asia Pacific region: rural communications – infrastructure development, NGN planning, the unique telecommunication/ICT needs of Pacific islands and small island developing states (SIDS) in the Asia-Pacific region; and strengthening the collaboration between ITU T and ITU D.
6. She also informed the delegates about the ITU Centre of Excellence programme, recently revived by the Members, which would work towards the ICT capacity building task in a structured manner. Towards the end, she looked forward to strengthen partnerships amongst the agencies.
7. The meeting adopted the agenda, which is attached.

## **II. SUMMARY OF THE MEETING PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

8. As the first speaker after the coffee break, Mr. Ajay Puri, a ten years old Microsoft Whiz Kid from India made an interesting presentation on promoting

ICT amongst youngsters, based on his own experience. He pointed out that he was an example of what kids could achieve with hard work if provided proper guidance and support. He highlighted the crucial role of the family in developing a child's talent. Mr. Puri mentioned that children spoke the language of "High-Technology" as their mother tongue whereas older people were "immigrants" in the land of technology, and that youngsters were serving as a helpdesk for the community. In conclusion, he requested all parents, grandparents and international/regional Organizations, especially the United Nations to recognize talent of children and provide all possible help to develop their talent to full potential. Finally he demonstrated his talent by preparing a small multimedia animation. Prior to his presentation, Mr Guennadi Fedorov, Chief, ICT Policy Section, ICSTD, UNESCAP and Mr Amarendra Narayan, Executive Director, APT introduced Mr Puri to the meeting.

9. Mr. Ashish Narayan, Specialist in Telecommunication Infrastructure Development of ITU ROAP presented the Youth Programme initiatives undertaken by the ITU. He mentioned the various goals of the youth programme and detailed the activities under the following initiatives:

- Create initiatives with emphasis on capacity building, education and work experience in ICTs, aiming at supporting young people, mainly from developing countries and those in transition to increase their knowledge in information and communication technologies;
- Assure the follow-up of the Youth Forums through Actions and Projects that identify the needs related to the promotion of the ICTs among the youth in a particular region or worldwide;
- Develop and support actions and projects that promote access, use and knowledge of ICTs for children and youth.

He further mentioned that some of the activities of ITU also included Youth Education Scheme (scholarships), Youth Incentive Scheme (Internships) and organization of various forums and training support.

10. Mr Rob Salavador, Project Coordinator (HRD & ICT) of APT also made a presentation on APT Young Professionals and Students (APTYPS) Forum. He mentioned that the future was in the Young People of Today, and to encourage young professional's interest and skill in the field of ICT and to utilize their

huge potential the APT established the APTYPS Forum with the objective of disseminating knowledge and developments in ICT sector and to encourage young professionals and students to actively participate in promoting the applications and so on. He then mentioned that APT had so far launched 11 APTYPS Forums, and next Forum would be held in Chiangmai, Thailand on 5 February 2007 which is expected to focus on the Youth's Role in Telemedicine Applications. To further this programme, APT has been cooperating with different ICT Institutes, educational institutes, universities, government enterprises, telecom and ICT industries, etc.

11. Mr Feng-Chun Miao, Programme Specialist, ICT in Education of UNESCO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (Bangkok) made a presentation on the topic of "Overall Information of ICT in Education Programme". He informed that UNESCO recognized the potential of ICT to achieve education for all goals, in particular its ability to (i) enable the inclusion of groups with no access to education, (ii) improve the quality of teaching and learning, and (iii) increase the efficiency and effectiveness in planning and administration. He then mentioned UNESCO's vision of ICT in education, scope of the ICT in education programmes.
12. Mr Hisanori Nishino, Programme Officer of APT presented the programmes and initiatives as a follow up to WSIS. He said that the key WSIS activities of the APT include Bangkok Agenda which was an outcome of the Ministerial Conference on Broadband and ICT held in Bangkok from 1 to 2 July 2004. The Bangkok Agenda had reaffirmed the commitment to WSIA Geneva 2003 Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action which recognized ICT infrastructure as central in achieving the goal of digital inclusion and looks forward to an environment in which broadband and ICTs can accelerate the social and economic development of the Asia and the Pacific. He further mentioned that another major activity as follow up to WSIS of APT was the its strategic plan 2006-2008 adopted at 10<sup>th</sup> General Assembly in November 2005 in Islamabad, Pakistan. According to him, the strategic plan of APT (2006-2008) had six parts: vision, strategic direction, key areas, APT's role as a key regional player, implementation mechanisms, and efficient and effective management.

13. Mr Jean-Michel Sadoul, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ICT Policy Section, ICSTD, ESCAP made a presentation of the web-based matrix of projects related to ICT for Development with classification based on WSIS Action Lines and project types. He demonstrated the features of the matrix interface, by visualizing the projects list using various sorting orders (Action Lines, implementing agencies, countries). Then he presented the administrative interface which enables each agency to maintain their projects data up-to-date via the web. In conclusion, Mr. Sadoul requested the participants to provide their comments for its improvement.
14. Mr Wu Guoxiang, Chief, Space Technology Applications Section, ICSTD, ESCAP briefed the meeting about the upcoming “Third Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific” which would be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 5 to 10 February 2007. He mentioned that the Conference would be held in two segments: Senior officials meeting on 5-7 February and Ministerial segment on 8-10 February 2007. He informed the meeting that the Conference would assess the implementation of RESAP and the outcomes of the recommendations of the second ministerial conference that was held in New Delhi in 1999, examine the converging trends in ICST and the issues facing the region in reaching internationally agreed development goals, recommend a strategy and action plan, that would provide a regional framework for the implementation of future cooperative programme and cooperative mechanisms at regional and national levels for the period 2008-2013, and finally, adopt a ministerial declaration, reflecting the policy decisions of the Governments of members of the Commission regarding cooperation in space-based ICTs for sustainable development. He mentioned that side events would also be held in conjunction with the Conference. He also informed that meeting that UNESCAP would soon sent invitations to all agencies requesting them to participate in the Conference.
15. Mr John Doyle, Project Coordinator of UNODC, Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific informed the meeting that a sophisticated on-line data collection and sharing network has been established by the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific. The Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (DAINAP) collects relevant drug control data

electronically from the eleven ACCORD partner countries (ASEAN + China) on a quarterly and annual basis. The data entered is accessible by all eleven participating countries, thus permanently linking them together on-line. Collected information is available for up-to-date analysis detailing drug patterns and trends in the region. Several Regional Centre projects with data collection components work collaboratively to upgrade national capacity to collect and share relevant data and insure sustainable inputs and outcomes to the system. Selected regional drug control stakeholders have also been granted on-line viewer access rights to DAINAP.

16. Representatives of SEAMEO, ICAO, UNIDO and UNCCD also presented their organizations' ICT related activities.
17. The meeting held of the view that an additional and combined effort of all the members of the IWG was necessary towards achieving the WSIS action lines and targets and building an information and knowledge society in Asia and the Pacific. In this regard, the meeting supported the idea of preparing a web-based database presented by UNESCAP Official in the form of matrix which can be updated by each agency once the matrix for each agency was prepared. UNESCAP offered to prepare such matrix for each agency once the basic information on ICT related projects is made available to UNESCAP. UNESCAP, in due course, would request each agency to fill in the basic information of the ongoing and planned projects in the matrix which would be further processed and put on the webpage of the IWG. A log-in-name and password would be provided to all the agencies so that agencies could update their information, periodically.
18. Ms Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU ROAP expressed her willingness to extend her organization's partnership with UNESCO, SEAMEO and UNODC as well. Similar offers were also made by Mr Amarendra Narayan, Executive Director, APT and Mr Siva Thampi, Director, ICSTD and Mr Guennadi Fedorov, Chief, ICT Policy Section, ICSTD, UNESCAP. Representatives of UNESCO, SEAMEO and UNODC appreciated and expressed their readiness for partnership in their future ICT4D activities including the activities on HRD on ICT, capacity-building for ICT4D, tele-education, etc.
19. Mr Guennadi Fedorov, Chief, ICT Policy Section, ICSTD, UNESCAP proposed that the next meeting of the IWG could focus on how to enhance

HRD and further assist the developing countries of Asia and the Pacific in building their national capacity in the area of ICT4D since they were imperative for economic and social development in those countries.

20. Finally, Mr Guennadi Fedorov, ICT Policy Section, ICSTD, UNESCAP, Mr Amarendra Narayan, Executive Director, APT and Ms Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU ROAP thanked the members for giving their time to the meeting and sharing their views and experience to the meeting.

