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

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY (APT)

Twelfth Meeting of the regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication
Technologies (ICT)

10 June 2009
Bangkok

DRAFT REPORT

This document has been issued without formal editing.

I. Organization of the Meeting

1.   The Twelfth Meeting of the regional Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) was held at UNCC, Bangkok on 10 June 2009. 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 (i) exchanging views on developments and trends in ICT creating challenges and opportunities for countries of the region as well as on policies and programmes of the member agencies/ organizations in this area; and (ii) identifying areas which require enhanced complementarity and synergy as well as those where duplication among existing ICT related activities of member agencies should be avoided. The meeting was attended by representatives of ten United Nations Organizations, International/Regional and Inter-governmental Organizations including the UNESCAP Secretariat. The programme of the meeting and the list of the participants are attached.

2.   The meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Xuan Zengpei, Director, Information and Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division (IDD), UNESCAP. In his opening statement, Mr. Xuan 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 establishment in 2001. Mr. Xuan emphasized on the theme of "Delivering as one UN" in possible areas. He highlighted the Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum held on 17-20 February 2009 in Tonga, which could serve as a good example of interagency cooperation. He also hoped for delivering as one on other future initiatives regarding Pacific Connectivity.

3.   Mr. Xuan also pointed out the importance of ICT and its potential contribution to addressing the climate change issue. He suggested that the negative and positive impacts of ICT on climate change could be included in the assessments conducted within the WSIS plans.

4.   In order to strengthen interagency co-operation, Mr. Xuan proposed to formulate a joint project proposal to be submitted to donors while ensuring each of the participating agencies receives an equal support of funding. He also called for active cooperation to participate in each agency's events organized in both Bangkok and outside.

5.   In her opening remarks, Ms. Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ITU ROAP) welcomed and thanked the IWG members for their continuous cooperation and support including for the ITU Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC 2010 organized in Kuala Lumpur on 5-7 May 2009. Whilst mentioning that the outcomes of RPM-ASP and other key development activities of ITU would be presented more details later, Ms. Kim informed the IWG meeting that ITU was focusing on the following several strategic areas: e.g., ICT and Economic Crisis, ICT and Climate Change, emergency and disaster communications to save life, and Cybersecurity. She noted that those areas were among many others in the ITU mandates to connect the world by 2015 to meet the millennium development goals (MDGs) and the goals/targets of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which led ITU with various partners including UNESCP to organize the Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum, Tonga, February 2009. As its

follow-up, ITU has just completed a project to connect the underserved island in Marshall Islands with again various partners. On the area of ICT and Economic Crisis, she mentioned the recent meetings between ITU Secretary General and industry leaders and ministers in Japan, especially the senior members of Kaidenren led by president of TOYOTA Company, who shared their experiences on how ICT could be integrated into parts for intelligent cars and devices. ICT has been considered to play a critical role in the recovery from the economic crisis through increasing jobs and creating economic opportunities. On the issue of ICT and Climate change, she also mentioned that ITU has organized Syposiums in Tokyo and London.

6. Ms. Kim also informed the participants that ITU had undertaken a series of ITU activities and initiatives to promote Cybersecurity, of which importance was announced by the President Obama in the USA. She summarized the following major initiatives and activities on the Cybersecurity in the ITU: e.g.,

- Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) through which IMPACT was launched in Malaysia;

- Theme for World Telecommunication and Information Society Day-2009 on Child Online Protection (COP);

- ITU-MIC Strategic Dialogue on Safer Internet Environment for Children jointly organized by ITU and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), Japan, last week in Japan to promote the safe use of Internet by children;

- C5 of WSIS Action Lines is to be proposed as a resolution at the forthcoming ITU meeting as 5C: i.e., Common Code of Conduct to fight Cyber Crimes; and

- A regional Cybersecurity Workshop is to be organized in India, 23-25 September 2009, focusing on its legal aspects;

7. In his statement, Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General, Asia Pacific Community (APT) welcomed the members of the IWG and mentioned that the regional Interagency Working Group meeting on ICT is very important to formally exchange information and to identify possible areas of cooperation. He informed the members that APT is celebrating its 30th Anniversary in 2009, and that APT is now planning to organize a Ministerial Meeting in Bali, Indonesia on 12-13 November 2009 under the theme of "Strengthen Regional Collaboration towards Broadband Economy". He extended his invitation to the members to the event as well. He also highlighted that APT adopted its three year strategic plan, of which this year is the first year. He also assured APT current and future cooperation with other agencies including ITU and UNESCAP.

8. The opening statements were followed by brief introduction of the participants and the ICT related activities undertaken by UNESCAP, ITU, APT, and other agencies.

II. Summary of the meeting presentations and discussions

9. Mr. Ram Tiwaree, UNESCAP, reiterated the objectives of the 12th IWG and informed the participants that the 64th UNESCAP Commission held in April 2008 adopted the resolution 64/1 on the revitalization of the conference structure of the Commission as a result, the new two committees on Information and Communication technology (CICT) and the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (CDRR) were been established, among others. Mr. Tiwaree

gave an overview of the outcomes and recommendations of the 1st session of the CICT and the 1st session of the CDRR.

10. In accordance with the agenda, Mr. Tiwaree gave an overview of the 65th UNESCAP Commission session and noted that the 66th session will be held in Incheon, Republic of Korea in April or May 2010 under the theme of "Addressing the challenges in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals: Promoting a stable and supportive financial system; and Green Growth or environmentally sustainable economic growth, including through technology and financing". He touched on the following examples as areas of past interagency collaboration; Expert Group Meeting on WSIS+5 and Emerging issues in Asia and the Pacific held in November 2008 in Thailand, and the Pacific ICT Ministerial Forum of Connecting the Unconnected held in February 2009 in Tonga. Mr. Tiwaree called the participants to actively participation in a list of upcoming events organized by IDD in 2009-2010.

11. Mr. Sameer Sharma, ITU, began his presentation with an overview of ITU and its presence in Asia and the Pacific. He started with ITU's vision and strategies followed by global and regional development programmes and initiatives including ICT and gender, children and youth, indigenous people and communities, persons with disabilities, communities living in remote and underserved areas. He highlighted public-private partnership as an important delivery mechanism. Mr. Sharma detailed the five ITU Asia Pacific Regional Initiatives, all of which were identified during the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2006 based on the requests from member countries. Mr. Sharma specifically mentioned the ITU Asia Pacific Regional Initiatives and projects being undertaken in partnership with government agencies, international organizations such as the Government of Australia, the Asian Development Bank, National Telecommunication Commission (NTC) of Thailand and the European Commission among many others. He also mentioned the successful implementation of the ITU Asia Pacific Regional Initiatives which mobilized 5.2 million USD by end of December 2008. Additionally, 1 million USD have been raised to continue to support the regional initiatives until February 2009.

12. In accordance with the agenda, Mr. Sharma informed the IWG meeting that the outcomes received from the member countries at the ITU Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC 2010 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 5-7 May 2009 were the following four global development programmes; (i) Information and communication infrastructure, (ii) cyber security and ICT Applications, (iii) enabling environment, (iv) capacity building and other initiatives respectively. He noted that among the five ITU proposals made at the ITU Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC 2010 specific to the Asia and Pacific Regional Initiatives, digital broadcasting was highlighted taking into account convergence and new technology migration in Asia and the Pacific. He also pointed out that these outcomes will have to be finalized to serve specifically to each region. Mr. Sharma provided a list of upcoming events in 2009 and 2010 in Asia and the Pacific and invited to actively participate in common activities. He specifically mentioned the ITU-ESCAP Workshop for ICT Accessibility for People with Disabilities being organized on 25-27 August 2009 in Thailand, and the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2010. He provided a description of the ITU country specific actions in 2009 and 2010 as well as shared a list of the ITU Asia Pacific training programs in 2009 and 2010, which were hosted by five centres of excellence in the region. In this regard, he also detailed that

the training courses were delivered both face to face and on line. Mr. Sharma informed that the training programmes were delivered either for free or for an affordable recovery fee.

13. In conclusion, Mr. Sharma proposed the following possible areas of interagency cooperation

    - Rural ICT communications

    - ICTs for Persons with Disabilities and Child/ Woman Online Protection

    - Capacity Building e.g

        - ITU Asia Pacific Centre of Excellence

        - ITU Asia Pacific Regional Forum on Human Capacity Development 2009

        - ITU Global forum on Human Capacity Development 2010.

    He specifically mentioned the Telecom World 2009 being held on 5-9 October 2009 in Geneva and the WTDC 2010, and requested for active participation, support and contribution from each agency.

14. Ms. Kim, ITU added that the outcomes of the ITU Asia Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC 2010 showed a strong commitment from members in the region and that the report is still in a draft version. She also expressed her gratitude to APT for helping organize another preparatory meeting before WTDC 2010, possibly in December 2009 in Thailand. In order to strengthen interagency partnerships and cooperation, she called for the identification of possible areas of common interest and for proposals for joint partnership, which could be submitted to prospective donors.

15. Mr. Kraisorn Pornsutee, APT began his presentation with the introduction of APT background. He summarized the list of APT activities and their results as of May 2009 including the 15th APT Standardization Program (ASTAP) Forum in Thailand, the 29th APT Study Groups Meeting, Thailand, the APT Workshop on Spectrum Management and Monitoring, Vietnam, the 6th APT Wireless Forum (AWF), the Telecommunication ICT Policy and Regulation Meeting for Pacific in Fiji, the 1st APT Preparatory Meeting for ITU World Telecom Development Conference (WTDC 10) and Plenipotentiary Conference (PP 10) in Malaysia, and the APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (RPF) in Hong Kong. In this regard, he also shared the list of APT forthcoming events, especially the APT Ministerial Conference which will be organized on 12-13 November 2009 in Bali, Indonesia. He noted that this meeting is organized in commemoration of APT's 30th Anniversary and would be hosted by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia.

16. Mr. Benjamin L. Vergel de Dios, UNESCO presented the organization's ICT in Education Program by emphasizing on the word of EDUCATION. He informed the IWG meeting that ICT was a key enabler when (i) it was used to reach more children who are out of school, and help teachers,(ii) the technology is of widespread use, and (iii) it was affordable to member states. He noted that UNESCO's ICT in Education Program focuses on addressing the main obstacles that all governments face when implementing ICT related project activities. Mr. Benjamin also shared with the participants some of UNESCO's initiatives and activities related to improving education through the use of ICT. Those activities have been implemented mainly through working with member states in areas such

as the inclusion of ICT into education policy, teacher training, building awareness on ICT in education, and partnership development.

17. Ms. Ryce Chanchai, UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok (RCB), gave an overview of the role and function of UNDP RCB. She also updated the IWG on the four core areas of UNDP's work related to ICT which has been incorporated into the Asia Regional Governance Programme of UNDP RCB: (i) access to information, (ii) media development, (iii) communication for empowerment, and (iv) e-governance. She pointed out that UNDP RCB has received increasing demands to conduct national media assessments with particular focus on freedom of expression and to enhance the role of media for democratic governance at the national level. A pilot new media assessment is underway in Maldives. Similar initiatives will be starting in Bhutan and Timor-Leste. Furthermore, under The Communication for Empowerment for Asia's Indigenous Peoples Initiative, the pilot projects were launched in Nepal and Lao PDR to formulate strategic options and recommendations to enhance communication for empowerment of indigenous peoples particularly access to information, communication needs and opportunities in media and ICT.

18. Mr. Xuan, UNESCAP called for the participants' concurrence on the concept of developing a joint project proposal. Ms. Kim, ITU, opened the floor for the participants to brainstorm on areas of expertises and potential collaboration. Mr. Xuan, UNESCAP proposed to establish a task force, which would meet regularly starting from the following week, initially including one representative from APT, ITU and UNESCAP. This task force would brainstorm and identify potential areas for a joint interagency project.

19. Mr. Yamada from APT pointed out that seeking donors maybe a good approach because each of the participating organizations has its own limited budget and that consolidating our efforts might receive a positive reaction from potential donors. He stressed however that we should carefully study on the mechanisms, administrative procedures since each organization has its own internal procedure. Further discussion maybe needed by the experts on how to proceed and to do it within the acceptable practice. He also added that there is a need to decide the basic point including the objectives, what area of common interest, what type of activity and project and level of participants in the projects and this should be carefully studied by all experts in details.

20. Mr. Xuan proposed (i) to base the potential project on extra budgetary resources given that each organization has it own different working process, (ii) that each agency should nominate one staff member to join a member to a task force for providing a project concept, and to follow up on actions resulting from this meeting. He welcomed all the participating members of the IWG to join the task force.

21. Ms. Chanchai, UNDP RCB agreed that in principle this could be a good starting point for strengthening collaboration. She suggested that from the UNDP perspectives, ICT can be a useful tool to enhance voices of marginalized and vulnerable groups and promote inclusive participation in the governance process.

22. Mr. Salvador from APT reminded the meeting especially those new participants that an existing IWG website is found at the APT website at http://www.apt.int/IWG/apt-iwg.htm

and urged them to revisit it and review the Terms of Reference of the IWG before embarking on new thinking.

23.   Mr. Vergel de Dios, from UNESCO, supported the concept of improving coordination and proposed to have a venue such as an ICT for Development Expo, where all ICT players, including development organization and private sector could come together and present their various programs to the governments in the region. This should bring increased awareness on each other's ICT initiatives and hopefully could improve coordination between institutions targeting the same constituents. Regarding the possible topics to discuss in the task force, UNESCO suggested to look at ways to encourage private sector contributions in addition to donor funded projects. There are many private sector initiatives in ICT and several of them are willing to work with the UN. However, administrative financial rules make it difficult to encourage private sector contributions.

24.   Mr. Sujan, ICAO supported the concept of having a core team and delivering as one. He informed that ICAO office in Bangkok was willing to provide any available technological expertise the project may require.

25.   Mr. Xuan, UNESCAP, concluded that the meeting agreed in this concept. He suggested the members to establish a task force by proposing that ITU, APT and UNESCAP be the first three members and tentatively set a schedule to meet the following week to discuss and to keep all members of the IWG informed on their progress. He encouraged all members to join the task force, if possible. He also requested to exchange full support among all members of the IWG for every future activities and events.

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

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY (APT)
Twelfth Meeting of the regional Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

10 June 2009
United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Meeting Room F, Bangkok

PROGRAMME

0900-0930	Opening Remarks by Mr. Xuan Zengpei, Director, IDD, ESCAP, Ms. Eun-Ju Kim, Head, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary-General, APT.
0930-1000	Coffee break
1000-1020	ESCAP Presentation on the outcomes of the 1st Session of the Committee on ICT and the 65th Commission Session and the 1st Session of the Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction (ICT related matters) and future possible areas for joint follow-up/cooperation
1020-1040	ITU Presentation on the outcomes of Asia-Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Telecommunication Development Conference-2010 and the Asia-Pacific Operational Plan for 2010
1040-1100	APT presentations on the highlights of the activities carried out until May 2009 and forthcoming programs in the year 2009
1100-1200	Brief presentations by other agencies on their ICT activities and proposals for cooperation and partnership including reporting on progress in following up of the recommendations from the Eleventh IWG meeting held on 25 February 2008
1200-1215	Other matters
1215	End of the meeting

10 June 2009

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

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU)

ASIA PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY (APT)

12th Meeting of the regional Interagency Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT)

10 June 2009 (0900-1215 hours)
United Nations Conference Centre (UNCC), Meeting Room F, Bangkok

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