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|  | ASIA-PACIFIC TELECOMMUNITY | **Document No.:**  **PRF-19/OUT-01** |
| **19th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum (PRF-19)** |
| 14 – 16 August 2019, Thimphu, Bhutan | 6 December 2019 |

Secretary General

**SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 19TH APT**

**POLICY AND REGULATORY FORUM**

1. INTRODUCTION

The 19th APT Policy and Regulatory Forum was held from 14 to 16 August 2019 in Thimphu, Bhutan. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Information Technology and Telecom, Ministry of Information and Communications, Bhutan.

The meeting was attended by 100 participants from APT Members, Affiliate Members, other organization and the APT Secretariat. Document No. PRF-19/ADM-03 contains the list of participants of the meeting.

1. OPENING SESSION *(Wednesday, 14 August 2019, 9:30 – 10:15 hrs.)*
   1. **Welcome Address by Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, Asia-Pacific Telecommunity**

Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General of APT delivered the Welcome Address. She mentioned that from time to time, PRF had contributed to the preparation of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting and PRF-18 in Dhaka had started the preparation for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019. She briefly talked about the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 which had been held in June 2019 in Singapore. The Singapore Statement adopted by Ministers would provide strategic guidance and pathways to the development of telecommunication/ICT in the Asia-Pacific region for the next five years. She highlighted important sessions at this PRF including Roundtables, Business Dialogue, and thematic sessions. The full text of her address is provided in Document No. PRF-19/INP-01.

* 1. **Welcome Remarks by Chairman of PRF**

On behalf of Mr. Md. Rezaul Quader, Chairman of PRF, Mr. Md. Mahfuzul Alam, Assistant Director, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), Bangladesh delivered the address. He highlighted the importance of PRF to provide a platform for policy makers, regulators, and industry for discussion on common policy and regulatory issues. He highlighted the importance of the discussion for this year and acknowledged APT for its continued dedication in providing the best opportunity to Members to discuss, to agree the regulatory best practices of emerging issues in the telecommunication/ICT development. He hoped the meeting would provide a lot of knowledge and wished the forum success. The full text of his address is provided in Document No. PRF-19/INP-02.

* 1. **Inaugural Address by H.E. Karma Donnen Wangdi, Minister of Information and Communications, Bhutan**

H.E. Karma Donnen Wangdi, Minister of Information and Communications, Bhutan delivered an inaugural address. He welcomed all delegates and highlighted the importance of PRF and how Bhutan had benefited from becoming a Member of APT in terms of capacity building and technical assistance. He mentioned that the Government of Bhutan recognized ICTs and Telecommunications as importation contributors to its socio-economic development. He highlighted some important statistics such as access to mobile service and internet subscribers. Bhutan intended to use ICT to empower its people and create an enabling environment for people to pursue happiness. He hoped to the meeting to be successful, productive and strengthened and tied friendship among the participants. The full text of his address is provided in Document No. PRF-19/INP-03.

1. SESSION 1 - PLENARY *(Wednesday, 14 August 2019, 10:30 – 11:30 hrs*.*)*
   1. **Adoption of Agenda *(Doc. PRF-19/ADM-01)***

Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, a Vice-Chairman of PRF, as Acting Chairman of PRF, introduced the Provisional Agenda of the Meeting. She sought comments on the document. As there was no comment, it was adopted.

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| **Decision No. 01 (APT PRF-19)** |
| Plenary adopted the Agenda of PRF-19 as in Document no. PRF-19/ADM-01. |

* 1. **Election of Chairman of PRF**

Secretary General referred to the Working Methods of PRF, which stated that the Chairman would be nominated by the host country. She informed the meeting that the Government of Bhutan nominated Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chief Communication Officer, Bhutan Infocomm and Media Authority (BICMA) as the candidate for the Chairman of PRF.

Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Acting Chairman of PRF, sought the approval of the meeting. With the acclamation of the meeting, Mr. Wangay Dorji was elected as the new Chairman of PRF. He would continue his chairmanship until the next PRF in 2020. Ms. Mina invited Mr. Wangay Dorji to the head table and handed over the chairmanship to him.

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| **Decision No. 02 (APT PRF-19)** |
| Plenary elected Mr. Wangay Dorji as the new Chairman of PRF. |

Mr. Wangay Dorji, the new Chairman of PRF made a short remarks about his chairmanship and presided over the meeting.

* 1. **Outcomes of the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT Relevant to PRF *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-04)***

Secretary General presented the outcomes of the 42nd Session of the Management Committee of the APT (MC-42) relevant to PRF. She highlighted that MC-42 approved the holding of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in 2019 and noted the celebration of 40th Anniversary of APT. MC-42 adopted the report of the PRF and approved the holding of PRF-19 in 2019. MC-42 also endorsed the implementation status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 and approved the proposal of Thailand on Voluntary Contribution in APT Work Programme for the year 2019.

The meeting noted the outcomes of the MC-42 relevant to the work of PRF.

* 1. **Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-05)***

Secretary General explained about the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 (APT-MM 2019) which had been held in Singapore. The preparation of the APT-MM 2019 had been started at PRF-18 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, where the discussion was on the proposal to setup a Correspondence Group for the preparation of the Ministerial Meeting. After that, the Correspondence Group had developed the draft Ministerial Statement, draft Press Release, tentative programme for Senior Officials Meeting and Ministerial Meeting. The draft Ministerial Statement was circulated to Members for internal clearance procedure to enable the Ministers to be able to endorse the Statement at the APT-MM 2019. The Senior Officials Meeting that had met before the APT-MM 2019 finalized the draft Ministerial Statement and the draft Press Release. APT-MM 2019 adopted the Singapore Statement of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministers on Co-creating a Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific and Press Release. Details of Singapore Statement would be presented in subsequent session.

The meeting noted the outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019.

* 1. **Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-06)***

Dr. Jongbong Park, Director Project Development, APT informed the meeting that the Implementation Status of the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020 was uploaded as document no. PRF-19/INP-06. MC-42 requested all APT Work Programmes including PRF to update the implementation status. APT Secretariat would compile all the implementation status and submit to the next session of the Management Committee of the APT.

The meeting noted the Strategic Plan of the APT for 2018-2020.

* 1. **Updates on Sub-regional Issues on Policy and Regulations *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-07 to INP-09)***

Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Vice-Chairman of PRF (East Asia), presented policy and regulatory update for East Asia as contained in document no. PRF-19/INP-09. She talked about AI and 5G Policies and Updates in China, Japan, and Republic of Korea. She then talked about Mongolia Sustainable Development Vision 2030. Finally, she discussed key indicators including ICT Regulatory Tracker, R&D intensity, and Global Cyber Security Index for China, Japan, Republic of Korea, and Mongolia.

Mr. Charles Chew, Vice-Chairman of PRF (Southeast Asia), presented policy and regulatory update for Southeast Asia as contained in document no. PRF-19/INP-07. He presented country updates based on 5 Key Themes, and other regulatory updates based on country. He then presented the ASEAN ICT Masterplan 2020 (AIM2020) highlighting its 5 key outcomes and 8 strategic thrusts. He then highlighted some TELSOM-ATRC Projects in 2019 and ASEAN Digital Masterplan 2025. Finally, he thanked APT memberships in Southeast Asia sub-region for the opportunity and privilege to represent them as a Vice-Chairman at the PRF for the last four years.

Chairman thanked Mr. Charles Chew for his contribution to PRF as a Vice-Chairman for the last four years.

Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Vice-Chairman of PRF (South Asia), presented policy and regulatory update for South Asia as contained in document no. PRF-19/INP-08. She highlighted some statistics, described Action Plan VII of SATRC and outcomes of SATRC Action Plan VI. She explained policy and regulatory aspects of Infrastructure Sharing, ICT regulatory framework for M2M and IoT, enhancing consumer protection in digital economy, regulatory approaches to enhance broadband experiences, regulatory framework for MVNO.

* 1. **Updates on ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019**

Secretary General provided information on ITU Global Symposium for Regulators 2019 (GSR-19) to the meeting. The GSR-19 was held in Vanuatu and it was the first time the meeting was held in the Pacific. The theme of GSR-19 was “Inclusive connectivity: The future of regulation”. The Chairman of GSR-19 was Mr. Brian Winji who was present at this PRF-19. She highlighted four Thematic Events which was held on the first day of the meeting. At the last session, regulators adopted GSR Best Practices Guidelines which was also provided as document no. PRF-19/INF-01.

1. SESSION 2 – ROUNDTABLE ON SINGAPORE STATEMENT AND ITS KEY TAKEAWAYS (*Wednesday, 14 August 2019, 11:15 – 12:30 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Chairman of Senior Officials Meeting for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 and Deputy Chief Executive of IMDA, Singapore

* 1. **Presentation on Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-10)***

Mr. Charles Chew, Chairman of the Correspondence Group for the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019, Singapore made a presentation on Outcomes of the Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting 2019 with a particular focus on a Singapore Statement.

The presentation provided overview of the APT-MM 2019 and its four objectives. The key outcome document adopted was the Singapore Statement entitled Co-Creating a Connected Digital Future in the Asia-Pacific which set out vision and high-level strategic direction for regional ICT cooperation over the next five years. It consisted of five Strategic Goals i.e. Digital Transformation, Digital Innovation & Creativity, Digital Community, Digital Trust, and Digital Capacity Building & Partnerships. The presentation then elaborated details of five Strategic Goals, each of which supplemented by four priority areas.

* 1. **Roundtable on Singapore Statement and its key takeaways**

Moderator invited panelists to share their view of the Singapore Statement, goals, action areas, focus areas, and if possible, provide some suggestions on how APT Members could implement some of the actionable steps in the Singapore Statement.

Ms. Ajarin Pattanapanchai, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand shared Thailand ongoing projects in accordance with five priority areas of the Singapore Statement. Those included projects on national broadband, enhancement of international gateway, transforming government sector to digital government, 5G testbed and field trial, digital park, AI Institute, IoT institute, Smart Cities, digital literacy training for rural area, village health volunteer, personal data protection and cybersecurity law, coding Thailand, etc. Thailand government expected that successful implementation of these projects which get along with Ministerial statement would help the nation to reform social and economic development and looked forward to actively engage in international and regional community to promote collaboration and partnership to share the benefit to others. The key takeaway was that, we as the region could achieve more by working closely together and Thailand was more than happy to share best practice and valuable experience to the APT Members.

Mr. Bambang Priantono, Commissioner, Indonesian Telecommunications Regulatory Authority, Indonesia shared that Indonesia was still developing their infrastructure and it was a big challenge to provide infrastructure to the people especially those in Islands. Government developed Palapa Ring which was mainly fiber optic which connected big district cities in Indonesia. For mobile they had 2G, 3G and 4G. 5G would come probably in 2020 or 2022. Digital trust was also an important issue and they had developed draft personal data protection law. Two important issues were how to categorize data and where to put the data. Black market of illegal IMEI was another issue. Indonesia was in the preparation to make regulation to identify registration and limitation of using IMEI.

Mr. Bhimlal Suberi, Chief Planning Officer, Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Information and Communications, Bhutan shared that although Bhutan missed the Senior Official Meeting and Asia-Pacific ICT Ministerial Meeting in Singapore, but it had involved in some extent in the preparation of the Singapore Statement. Bhutan supported the commitment made, and some of the declaration was very ambitious for a small country like Bhutan. This was not to discourage other countries from embarking on the ambitious goals to address new challenges. Bhutan would like to use the Singapore Statement as the basis for planning their investment, secure funding for the development of ICT possibly for the higher education in ICT sector. Singapore Statement was a visionary document to develop to get full assessment of the various need of different countries which had different level of development. It was also noted that the special needs of countries with specific unique requirement were part of the declaration because it included landlocked and developing countries. He also shared what Bhutan had implemented or planned relevant to the five Strategic Goals such as nationwide mobile and Internet availability, E-government policy, increases in the IT company, Govnet expansion, establishment of Bhutan Computer Incident Response Team (BCIRT), etc.

Panelists also discussed on diversity issue and how to take this forward so that APT secretariat could take some comment on board because everyone need to put together some kind of implementation strategy or implementation plan to operationalize the Singapore Statement. Some key highlights were:

* APT could support all members in form of standard not only technical standard, but also guideline, practice or recommendation
* Around all the Members there were a lot of example how each one of us has addressed or implemented part of the Statement already. The question was how to pull-out idea together, share example, and develop best practice.
* Diversity was not only country to country but could be also within the country. The development of the skill of the people was also necessary.
* APT could set goals, suggest broad policy guidance or policy parameter for which the owner of implementing those parameters would obviously fall in individual country.
* Having addition mobile network operator was a challenge. It could either stimulate the existing operators to provide better service or eliminate the existing one resulting in going back to monopoly situation.

Moderator summarized that going forward collectively as APT, we should coordinate or share among us so that we would benefit from the collective rather than just individual. APT could not do everything because APT was the secretariat and the role was largely facilitation, facilitate sharing of information, and facilitating discussion. Nonetheless, it was important to look on how APT could move forward collectively to look at the goals and focus areas of Singapore Statement. This conversation was only the start and it would take many more sessions. We would continue to have many of this conversation, but it was important to get it going. He thanked all panelists for giving comprehensive description and their views of the Singapore Statement and how of them has implemented it.

1. SESSION 3 – CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES FOR UNSERVED AND UNDERSERVED – A CASE STUDY ON THAILAND CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVES “NET PRACHARAT” AND OTHERS *(Wednesday, 14 August 2019, 14:00 – 15:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Paul Ulrich, Senior Policy Manager, APAC, GSMA

* 1. **Keynote Presentation on Thailand Initiatives “Net Pracharat” *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-11)***

Ms. Ajarin Pattanapanchai, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Digital Economy and Society (MDES), Thailand made a keynote presentation on the Village Broadband Internet Project or Net Pracharat, a flagship digital infrastructure project of the Thai government that aims to set up high-speed Internet connectivity throughout the country, so that local Thai people who live in the remote areas would be able to access broadband or high-speed Internet as those who lived in the cities. To achieve this objective, the Government of Thailand provided budget for the deployment of high-speed Internet network to villages in rural and non-marketable areas nationwide. Trainings were provided to increase awareness and promote the use of Net Pracharat. In social development, people employed Net Pracharat as a primary tool for life-long learning, healthcare service, and disaster management. MDES was in the process of opening the Net Pracharat network based on the Open Access Network (OAN) model. For the benefits of Net Pracharat, local people can access useful information and services such as health services, e-Government service, economic development, education. Key success factors were government policy, collaboration from related government units, and support from all sectors to utilize and further extend Net Pracharat. For recommendations to other APT countries, a country need government initiative, budget, and support and cooperation from all sectors.

* 1. **Panel Discussion**

Moderator requested the panelists to comment upon the presentation.

Mr. Haruo Okamura, President, Global Plan Inc. Japan commented he was impressed by the success of Thailand Net Pracharat deployment to non-commercial area. He also shared information on the game-changing technical solution of truly affordable and broadband rural optical fiber backhaul connectivity particularly for countries trying to follow the success of Thailand where the solution might be applicable. The solution had been successfully implemented in mountain village in Nepal. He further added that the solution is unique because the optical cable is based on submarine cable technology, high durability, light weight and world first standardized solution.

Moderator asked Dr. Boonlit Adipat, Computer Technical Officer (Senior Level), Ministry of Digital Economy and Society, Thailand about the infrastructure cost of the project. Dr. Boonlit said for network installation and Wi-Fi service network maintenance, the cost was around 318 million USD or roughly 1,700 USD per km in average.

Moderator asked Mr. Yosuke Uchiyama, Government and Industrial Affairs Department, KDDI Corporation, Japan to comment on PPP DIY model based on APT EBC-J project in Bhutan. He explained that the leadership was the local government which was very good to coordinate with local people and this model was good for local people. This was similar to Thailand project, but it was local government initiative, they have no skill no people. This model is good for local people who doesn’t know anyway to construct the fiber cable. The local government coordinate all area and they can take care of everything.

Moderator asked Ms. Noelle Francesca de Guzman, Regional Policy Manager – Asia-Pacific, ISOC about their work. She replied that ISOC work involved in community network built and operated by community. A lot of these networks were funded by NGO. ISOC strongly encouraged government to make USF available for these alternative deployments.

The panelists and participants discussed widely on the project including : whether OAN extend to village level ISP, and if they do, does Thailand have to do any policy adjustment to enable them to access, and are there any plan to incentivize them to take advantage of the network; cooperation with the regulator, potential of the market and end goal; initiative of allowing the community to participate in making the network sustainable by training community member on digital skill and etc.; usage gap and coverage gap, market gap and development gap, etc., Operation and Maintenance of the project.

Key points noted from the discussion:

* Local operators need telecommunication license to connect to Net Pracharat to provide the last mile service to the household and MDES doesn’t charge them so they can provide low price service for remote area;
* The Open access is another policy to promote the small enterprise to do ISP especially in the community. Big ISP was also allowed but they have countrywide network already, if they want to connect with the Net Pracharat, they have to open access also.
* The survey had been conducted before implementation of the project, MDES did not intervene the market and select only rural area which is non-marketable and remote area
* Net Pracharat is not only the WiFi but the superhighway of digital infrastructure that can extend further. That’s why they aim for the open access network and let local operator and private sector to connect and provide innovative service and content that will benefit Thailand and people. Wi-Fi is the stimulating tool to let the people know about the Internet but not the ultimate goal of the Net Pracharat.
* MDES has a policy to promote usage but not subsidy the devices.
* From the policy perspective when talking about USF, there is always the question of market gap and development gap. The development gap is the area where no economic viability to cover for mobile network operator. This make delivery of service more expensive which impact people to take up service.
* Owner of Net Pracharat project is the government but granted to TOT to operate due to the issue of depreciation of the assets.
* The project is for public sector to provide good service to those rural areas so fiber optic technology is selected. Spectrum is for NBTC for mobile service

1. SESSION 4 – BUSINESS DIALOGUE: FUSION OF 5G, AI, AND IOT *(Wednesday, 14 August 2019, 15:45 – 17:00 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman of PRF

Moderator invited each panelist to make a short presentation.

* 1. **Fusion of 5G, AI, and IoT** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-12)*

Mr. Paul Ulrich, Senior Policy Manager, APAC, GSMA presented the document.

A combination of artificial intelligence (AI) with the Internet of Things (IoT) and blockchain were maturing and entering production at the same time as 5G launches in dozens of countries worldwide, with standalone (SA) applications of 5G coming in 2020, based on soon-to-be determined SA standards. 5G’s massive IoT was an early use case, combined with AI and blockchain to provide cybersecurity, transparency, and privacy-protected accountability in evolving, collaborative, and mobile-based ecosystems, enabled by 5G and operating at the edge of the network via mobile edge computing (MEC). Regulatory issues include allowance of cross-border data flows for big IoT deployments by large multinationals. 5G regulatory issues were similar to ones for 4G, while AI involves policies to ensure ethical and unbiased use.

* 1. **Fusion of 5G, AI and IoT: Touching the Intelligent World** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-13)*

Mrs. Boya Lyu, Director of APAC Spectrum and Regulation, Huawei presented the document.

The ultra-fast and ultra-low latency and ultra-high reliable connectivity provided by 5G networks, combined with the huge amount of data collected by the Internet of Things and the contextualization and decision-making capabilities of artificial intelligence technologies will enable new transformational capabilities in virtually every industry sector, potentially changing our society and the way we live and work.

* 1. **The Perfect Storm: How 5G, AI, and IoT will Change Everything** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-14)*

Mr. Austin Menyasz, Director, Group Public and Regulatory Affairs, Telenor Group presented the document.

The presentation explored how 5G would provide the basis to jumpstart IoT and once combined with AI would unlock a world of opportunities that would fundamentally change all economics sectors. It also explored the key regulatory challenges, including spectrum identification, infrastructure issues, and the role of government in enabling the continued growth of the digital economy.

* 1. **Panel Discussion**

Moderator mentioned whether it was really a time to move to 5G when they were not able to reap the benefit of 4G and asked the panelists why we had to move to 5G when we were not able to fully reap the benefit of 4G.

Mr. Paul Ulrich commented that GSMA was not encouraging country like Bhutan to race ahead but better to stay back and potentially leapfrog once there were the technology and use cases around there in the market that they could pick and choose the best of what there were. In the same way as AI in the last 7 years which had advanced so rapidly that now they could take off-the-shelf Google product for free and apply them in their network.

Ms. Boya Lyu commented that it was not only 5G that can work with AI and IoT but 4G could also do that. However, if high-demanding applications was required then that’s only 5G could support. For country like Bhutan, Huawei could explore opportunity and benefit of 4G to support this kind of fusion of 4G, IoT and AI.

Mr. Austin Menyasz commented that he agreed with other panelists. The time that Bhutan has now was the time to get ready. There was opportunity to measure policy framework when 5G was going to be deployed, the infrastructure could be able to be quickly easily and cost effectively be deployed, the spectrum roadmap to be put in place, and when the investment could be planned.

The panelists discussed widely on the subjects including the operator perspective of 5G, what is expected from the regulator, which existing network of 2G/3G/4G to switch off, digital divide issue, negative impact of the radio frequency, revenue from IoT

Key highlights from the discussion are as follow:

* From operator perspective there are realistically not so many proven use cases for 5G today. From consumer retail perspective, it’s not evident that 5G is going to be any more suitable offering for most consumers and are they going to be willing to pay premium access faster service that they already have today. What the real commercial opportunity that exist for operators to make money of their investments is still an issue.
* Operators are encouraged to get more revenue from industry because industry is more profitable from the economic standpoint and 5G potential is seen to have impact for Industrial IoT.
* Operator cannot afford not to deploy AI because if you get behind that they can lose out, but on the other side very large number of deployment of AI are not worked that well because it involves digital transformation, not only infrastructure but mindset and process that they are done. It is not just an easy thing to plug in AI and expect to work form day 1.
* Even though for some country, 5G is not today, is not tomorrow but 5G will be the trend. Regulators and governments when they do regulation and spectrum planning it should be forward looking and avoid spectrum re-farming for 4G and 5G.
* IoT application in Agricultural sector provided possibility for enhance collaboration. 5G will be an era of partnership. Agricultural sector in term of productivity in most country is lagging significantly behind other sectors because they didn’t have kind of massive digitalization. This is the opportunity with IoT. There is space for this type of collaboration that can be scaled up for potential 5G use cases.
* When we talked about fusion of 5G, AI and IoT, data became an issue. This may be an area that is not specifically a telco regulators responsibility. It is in the area where whichever authority need to have substantial input from industry to sufficiently understand the type of use cases that are going to emerge, how data is likely to be used, issues related to cross border data and how global flow of data work in a modern economy.
* There are still questions on how do we expect technology to impact different sector, how do we expect technology to impact individual people, how to manage the changes in employment in workforce, how to effectively build the skill that are required in the workforce to be able to work with this technology. As regulator somebody need to take a leading role
* Switching off existing 2G/3G/4G network depends on national situation, how users currently using the service, how many 2G subscribers are there, the cost of migrating those types of subscriber, affordability to migrate to from 2G to 3G/4G, what is the customer expectation, etc.
* Digital literacy and skill are important issues to make sure no one is left behind.
* For high frequency spectrum, it doesn’t go through wall very well, rain and tree can interfere with it, likewise human skin interfere with it or animal skin. It is even less likely to be able to penetrate human body than lower bandwidth of 2G,3G,4G. With rapid growth of handset, you didn’t see rapid growth of brain cancer.
* IoT connectivity is very little revenue. Operator can move up value chain and not just provide basic connectivity but use AI deployment and become more like cloud service provider, internet service provider and have these analytics that they can offer and get more revenue from IOT.
* Regulator should look at data framework, business model , and play enabling role in that ecosystem rather than a policeman
* The success of application is based on people trust of the usage. Digital trust is important to enable the success of fusion of 5G, AI and IoT. Also need to make people understand so digital education and innovation is important.

1. SESSION 5 – TOWARDS 5G DEPLOYMENT *(Thursday, 15 August 2019, 9:00 – 10:30 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Austin Menyasz, Director, Group Public and Regulatory Affairs, Telenor Group

* 1. **5G+ Strategy, To Realize Innovative Growth** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-15)*

Mr. Lee Sanghun, Senior Director, Ministry of Science and ICT, Republic of Korea presented the document.

5G is seen as a key foundation of the Hyper-connected society and a driver for the 4th industrial revolution. It is a core infrastructure realizing innovative growth. Korea envisions 10 key industries and 5 key services which propel future growth. To create a 5G related vital ecosystem, Korean government plans to employ tax incentives and enact adequate industrial & educational policy. Sandbox, a policy fast track was in operation to move forward rapidly.

* 1. **Panel Discussion**

Moderator invited panelists to make a brief introductory remark.

Mr. Nitin Sapra, AVP, Group Regulatory Affairs, Axiata commented that 5G was becoming a reality. From operators’ perspective, for the commercial launch of 5G both demand and supply side of drivers needed to be enabled, both from the industry and from the consumer side. Relevant consumer segments and specific use cases needed to be identified and developed. The collaboration between vertical industries such as automotive, agriculture, health care, etc. was expected to happen in the future for 5G to be successful.

Mrs. Boya Lyu, Director of APAC Spectrum and Regulation, Huawei shared Huawei understanding on what would enable 5G to success which include spectrum, technology, and sites.

Mr. Tare Brisibe, Senior Legal & Regulatory Counsel, Asia-Pacific, SES World Skies commented that Satellite could bring value and collaboration between different technology provider. It was a key between various technologies platform that works in this ecosystem to bring 5G technologies to various community. Satellite was unique because it provided wide coverage, ubiquitous, offer mobility to terminal in motion, satellites were secure, and ability to broadcast. Some band should be reserved for satellite use. They have already worked to deliver 3G and 4G service, and in the future 5G services. It was important to be able to obtain the spectrum that they need in order to work together in this ecosystem to deliver future 5G services.

The panelists discussed widely on the subjects including the key spectrum issues that need to be addressed by regulators to enable 5G deployment, usage of 28 GHz band, challenges in developing national roadmap, national plan and timeline for 5G, the role of mobile network and satellite operator, cybersecurity issue, etc.

Key highlights from the discussion are as follow:

* There is a need to harmonize the frequency across the globe.
* Spectrum is an issue that has been discussed in a lot of country and framework is important. Having comprehensive framework can help to drive industry forward.
* Government should work closely with telecommunication operators to collaboratively make the ecosystem which could be the platform for good development of 5G. Stakeholders are also willing to collaborate with others for 5G deployment
* There was a challenge on service that trigger users to change their devices to 5G services.
* Setting up a national 5G taskforce to study holistic strategy for 5G deployment is a good approach to collaborate among private sector and agencies taking care of demand and supply ecosystem.
* Pro-innovation, pro-investment policy and the right spectrum pricing model is expected.
* Security issue is an important issue for 5G. 5G will empower society with the speed of becoming hyper connected society. Security in 5G is not just cybersecurity/5G security but could become national security or global security.

Moderator thanked all panelists.

1. SESSION 6 – SHAPING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC *(Thursday, 15 August 2019, 10:45 – 12:15hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Areewan Haorangsi, Secretary General, APT

* 1. **Empowering people and businesses for all possibilities in the digital economy** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-22)*

Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Deputy Chief Executive of IMDA, Singapore presented the document.

Digital technologies have transformed the way we work, live and play, and at the same time, disrupted domestic and global economies. Geographical boundaries were no longer a constraint for businesses and talent to provide their services to a global market audience, and new business models were enabled through the use of frontier technologies and innovation. We were now entering the era of a global digital economy where digital transformation, trust and seamless connectivity and data flow play increasingly critical roles. The presentation shared Singapore’s experience and insights on how the international community could further strengthen collaboration and partnership so as to harness the full benefits of the digital economy.

* 1. **Shaping Digital transformation in Mongolia** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-23)*

Mr. Zolzaya Arild, Director General, Broadcasting and Digital Content Policy Planning Department, CITA, Mongolia presented the document.

The presentation shared how ready Mongolia was for digital transformation and the Legal environment for digital transformation in Mongolia. It first introduced government structure of ICT policy and regulation, the mission of CITA, and information communication network in Mongolia including mobile networks and current situation for users. For legal environment, there were many relevant laws both existing, drafting. It also shared government policy and strategy programs on development of ICT sector in Mongolia approved by Government, and national programs and projects relevant to digital transformation.

* 1. **Digital Drukyul - Harness the power of ICT to transform Bhutan into a smart and inclusive society** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-24 (Rev.1))*

Mr. Lobzang Jamtsho, Dy. Chief ICTO, Application Division, Department of IT and Telecom, MoIC, Bhutan presented the document.

The presentation talked about holistic strategy of ICT implementation to maximize the usage both existing infrastructure and systems and enhance or to promote ease of new ICT systems adoption seamlessly. The program would ensure end to end digitalization for online services to service consumers by enabling all building blocks in the digital ecosystem.

* 1. **Digital Policy Building Blocks for the 2020s – Building Towards ASEAN’s 4IR** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-25 (Rev.1))*

Mr. Ahmad Khudayar Bhinder, AVP, Group Regulatory Affairs, Axiata presented the document.

The presentation was based on a report by Analysis Mason, jointly commissioned by Axiata and Facebook. It described the building blocks of the digital economy, explored achievable objectives for growing the digital economy and recommended 10 impactful policy measures (3 for Infrastructure, 3 for Data, and 4 for Digital services) for adoption by the ASEAN countries. Most of the recommendations were relevant and could be applicable to other APAC countries.

* 1. **Discussion**

The panelists discussed widely on the subjects including different level of digital transformation, important factors in the digital transformation,

Key highlights from the discussion are as follow:

* Some countries had progressed well in the digital transformation, but some countries were just in the beginning state but the important thing for the digital transformation is the policy of the government.
* Axiata report covered only ASEAN countries because ASEAN had a political framework where government and regulators can sit together to discuss and achieve the target. Axiata was pleased to extend it to other countries in Asia-Pacific.
* Human factor is an important element to move to the digital transformation even though the level or step of digital transformation are different.
* Singapore is happy to share what have been the lesson learnt to other Members.
* Sometimes the policy needs to be adjusted and it could not be long-lasting. Best strategy is to be flexible.
* The policy that works well on one country may not work well in others. Each country has to see what would be best for them.

1. SESSION 7 – Plans and Lessons learnt for National Digital ID *(Thursday, 15 August 2019, 14:00 – 15:30 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mr. Sanghun Lee, Senior Director, Ministry of Science and ICT, Korea (Republic of)

* 1. **Aadhaar and National Digital Identity** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-19)*

Mr. Ashok Kumar, ADG, Unique Identification Authority of India presented the document.

UIDAI is running the world’s largest digital Unique Identity Program having issued over 1.24 billion bio-metrically de-duplicated identities popularly known as Aadhaar. Current saturation levels are about 90% of the total resident population. Aadhaar has created a service delivery ecosystem which allows approved requesting entities to verify/ authenticate the Aadhaar identity of individuals after collecting consent from Aadhaar holders. Aadhaar has helped various service providers in Government as well private sector to improve delivery of services while benefitting Aadhaar holders and has contributed to savings of approx. USD 20 billion over the last 4 years.

* 1. **National Digital IDs: Initiatives, Technology, and Successes** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-20)*

Mr. Paul Ulrich, Senior Policy Manager, APAC, GSMA presented the document.

Along with connectivity, digital IDs serve as foundations of a digital society, encompassing digital citizenship, digital lifestyle, and digital commerce. GSMA’s 2019 study of national digital ID systems found that only a few countries use SIM registrations to verify identifications against a national database; a lack of IDs disproportionately affects women, thereby excluding many from financial services; and an absence of national privacy frameworks can undermine trust in digital IDs. Blockchain holds promise for the creation of self-sovereign digital IDs to streamline credentialing whereby users themselves control their own credentials. In recent months, consortia of banks have used blockchain-based digital IDs in Canada and Brazil to onboard new customers, with expectations of using the same system later this year for onboarding mobile and healthcare users while providing access to government services.

* 1. **Digital Transformation and Partnerships in support of Humanitarian Assistance Services** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-21)*

Ms. Patricia Facultad, Partnerships Officer, World Food Programme (WFP) presented the document via remote presentation.

The World Food Programme (WFP) is the world’s largest humanitarian agency and is the largest provider of digital humanitarian assistance services. It requires the identities of the people it serves to ensure that the correct assistance goes to the right people. Accurate identification is critical to the delivery of benefits and services when delivering assistance to people in need. WFP works through and with national social protection systems to deliver assistance, leveraging existing national identity mechanisms and social registries. WFP has increased efficiency and effectiveness of services to affected populations, through the application of digitized beneficiary information and assistance transfer management called SCOPE. WFP SCOPE has become one of the largest non-commercial, non-governmental databases of vulnerable people in the world. WFP is ready to partner to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and collaborate on identity frameworks, agree on standards on security, operability and privacy, and share its experiences and lessons learnt from rolling out SCOPE and through its blockchain technology solution strategy called “Building Blocks”.

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on the topic especially on the Aadhaar system including whether there was any law that resident have to register to Aadhaar, how to persuade the resident to use the Aadhaar, the enrollment and authentication issue, usage of Point of Sale to expand banking to remote/rural area for unbanked people, regulatory perspective on data classification. The meeting also discussed on difficulty of WFP to implement its system.

Key highlights from the discussion are:

* There is a legal framework called Aadhaar Act that states that every residents of the country are entitled to obtain Aadhaar. It is voluntary for the person to apply for Aadhaar. But Aadhaar is used as a requirement to get various benefit so mostly all resident enroll for Aadhaar.
* Enrollment to Aadhaar can be done with full, partial, or without biometrics. Authentication can be done via various modality, not only fingerprint. Exception mechanism is available and can be authenticate by an alternate way.
* In terms of data, only basic minimal information can be transferred. A lot of privacy concept is implemented.
* For WFP solution, in order to be able to ensure privacy and data protection, the system need to be able to scale up and improve and harness capability of the cutting- edge biometric authentication and verification technology solution and system. The ecosystem approach should be taken. Challenges is to ensure the bigger scale system in the manner that is sustainable, effective, interoperable, and affordable.

1. SESSION 8 – NATIONAL DIGITAL INCLUSION FOR ALL CITIZENS *(Thursday, 15 August 2019, 15:45 – 17:15 hrs.)*

Moderator: Ms. Lindl Rowe, Director, Department of Communications and the Arts, Australia

* 1. **Digital Inclusion for all the citizen** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-16))*

Mr. Jamyang Sonam, Sr. ICTO Promotion Division, Department of IT and Telecom, MoIC, Bhutan presented the document.

Department of IT and Telecom established with a vision of “ICT enabled Knowledge based Society as foundation for Gross National Happiness”. Internet connection in Bhutan has improved since its beginning in 1999. National Fiber Network has been expanded throughout the country. It has a policy for the telecommunication services to be developed in line with international trend. Presentation covered the current state of ICT in the country and the national digital literacy program, the objectives of the program, and how Bhutan has implemented it.

* 1. **National Digital Inclusion for all citizens** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-17)*

Ms. Phavanhna Douangboupha, Deputy Director General, Lao PDR presented the document.

It was the government duty to create favorable conditions and environments for Citizens to embrace Digital Opportunities. Lao PDR, MPT was drafting Digital Transformation Master Plan. One of the main objectives was to contribute to the Sustainable Development and for the benefits of their Citizen; therefore, Digital Inclusion was greatly important. The presentation covered the statistics of the household usage of the telecommunication in urban and rural areas and SWOT analysis. It also shared local examples of digital development in government, as well as development of applications for private sector. Various national plan including Digital Transformation Master Plan was also discussed.

* 1. **Partnerships to ensure Digital Inclusion for All**

Ms. Tenzin Dolma Norbhu, Head, Connectivity and Access Policy, APAC, Facebook presented the document.

Facebook’s mission is to give people the power to build community and bring the world closer together. Connectivity can help build community, and that's why Facebook's connectivity efforts focus on bringing more people online at faster connection speeds. As stakeholders work bring the under and unconnected online, we all have to think differently in terms of the technological solutions, partnerships and policies required for digital inclusion. Over the past several years, Facebook have worked on technologies, programs and partnerships to support digital inclusion. The presentation shared Facebook collaborative efforts on digital inclusion. It introduced the Inclusive Internet Index and covered various partnerships for digital inclusion including connectivity partnerships, digital literacy partnerships, and accessibility initiatives.

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on the topic including the difficulty of Bhutan and Lao PDR as landlocked countries in terms of connectivity, digital inclusion for women, and the availability of content in local languages.

The key highlights are:

* Bridging the digital divide is not only about providing the connectivity but also about adopting to promote availability of local content and applications in local languages at affordable prices.
* Bhutan are working to bring down the cost of connectivity and it has international gateway with India. Woman is also part of inclusive, digital literacy program encourage more women participation.
* Lao PDR faces difficulty in connectivity and it bought a lot of Internet bandwidth from oversee because they use a lot of oversea content. One solution is to encourage people to develop local content. Some of the operators work with OTT company to have data stored locally to save the bandwidth. In terms of woman in ICT, two important policies are to promote young people and to promote woman.
* Facebook application is available in multiple languages already. Most of the content is user generated and can be in local languages. It also works on internationalization and localization to ensure that content posted in particular language can be made available in another language.

1. SESSION 9 – CROSS BORDER TRANSFER OF PERSONAL DATA AND SESSION 10 - ONLINE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF CITIZENS *(Friday, 16 August 2019, 9:00 – 11:30 hrs.)*

Moderator: Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Deputy Direct/Compliance, Telecommunications Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka

* 1. **Unlocking the fuel of the digital economy** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-26)*

Mr. Austin Menyasz, Director, Group Public and Regulatory Affairs, Telenor Group presented the document.

Many governments perceive that telco data is sensitive and timely access to it by law enforcement for criminal investigation and public safety purposes is critical. Hence, telco data is often subjected to more stringent and misguided data localization restriction. This not only raises business costs for telcos but also prevents them from innovating and transforming their business models to benefit their customers. Through existing lawful means and appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms that do not restrict the flow of data, governments can preserve privacy, safeguard national security and still have access to data for official and investigative purposes.

* 1. **Online Safety in Australia** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-27)*

Ms. Elizabeth Clark, Director, Department of Communications and the Arts, Australia presented the document.

The presentation provided overview of Australia’s experience with internet regulation and online safety, how they get to where they are, how they currently do things, what kind of regulations they have in place in order to make sure that its citizens are safe online, and the challenges they are facing. The eSafety Commissioner was established with broad roles that spans coordination, education and prevention. The presentation also explained various online issues including Cyberbullying, Cyberbullying complaints, Image-based abused, image-based abuse complaints, online content scheme, safety by design, abhorrent violent material.

* 1. **Enabling Policies for Digital Citizenship** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-28)*

Ms. Noelle Francesca de Guzman, ISOC presented the document.

Governments across Asia-Pacific are increasingly enacting measures to minimise Internet users’ exposure to online risks. The presentation focused on public policies that enable users to proactively protect themselves on the Internet and explore the role of governments in developing an ecosystem that prioritises users’ digital well-being.

* 1. **Online Safety: A shared responsibility** *(Doc. No. PRF-19/INP-29)*

Ms. Snow White O. Smelser, Safety Policy & Safety Programs Manager, APAC, Facebook presented the document.

Facebook cares deeply about the safety and well-being of its global community. We work closely with non-government organizations, law enforcement, academics, policymakers, and other safety experts to continuously improve our policies, tools, and resources. Over the past several years, we have worked to expand our safety tools and resources globally. The presentation share facebook collaborative efforts to keep our community safe, especially for minors.

* 1. **Discussion**

The meeting widely discussed on the topic including the cross-border transfer of data, framework to classify data, localization of database, service stability aspect, filter of online content, code of conduct for social media provider.

The key highlights are:

* For cross border data, there are different issues in terms of policy making that need to be considered such as data protection, data classification.
* User rights need to be at the core on how the company treat the data. They had to endure that it’s not being shared with party that could potentially provide harm to that users or be detrimental to them.
* Australia does not have a filtered Internet service, but it has a small minority of data to be filtered around child sexual exploitation material that has been identified. Government also committed to providing parental control filter and parent can chose to opt-in for service.
* One of the challenges is that there is lack of standard definition, for example the concept of a child. Before we can talk about having a code of conduct across platform, we need to have clear definition of what we actually mean by what we are trying to define and what we are trying to protect.

1. SESSION 11 – PLENARY *(Friday, 16 August 2019, 12:00 – 12:30 hrs.)*

Chair: Mr. Wangay Dorji, Chairman of PRF

* 1. **Way Forward**

Chairman submitted 3 proposals to the meeting for its consideration which are following:

* + 1. **Set up of Rapporteur groups**

Chairman referred to the Working Methods of PRF, which was adopted at the MC-40. On the Intersessional Electronic Working of the APT Policy & Regulatory Forum section, it stated as follow: “For work in between the sessions, the Forum may establish Rapporteur groups to work electronically for producing practical outputs for use of members or for providing input to international fora on issues related to the policy and regulation. The term of office of Rapporteurs will be decided by the Forum.”

He proposed to the meeting whether it should setup this kind of rapporteur group. If there is a requirement then PRF-20 maybe able to conduct that.

Mr. Austin Menyasz commented that it would be good if it is integrated into the planning of topics within the PRF so that if Member Administrations are interested in a particular topic, then the panel that deals with that topic could produce some kind output for Members to refer to and share to those within the respective ministry who are not present at the meeting. As a general topic it is an interesting idea, but it may be more useful if it response to input and request for specific topic by members.

Dr. Jongbong Park added that in terms of Rapporteur groups or Intersessional Working Group, secretariat required certain topics from our members. If members agreed upon certain topics, next PRF would setup intersessional WG. It would be better to invite member to submit proposal to PRF-20, next PRF-20 would discuss the matter and setup the WG to follow up, which might be the prudent course of action.

The meeting agreed the aforementioned proposed course of action.

* + 1. **Industry Dialogue**

Chairman proposed that industry dialogue was important, and he requested to continue to and to have at least two sessions rather than one session, if possible.

Dr. Siok Tan added that Satellite industry would like to contribute to the next PRF and continue to support regulators and policy makers to facilitate bridging the digital divide.

Mr. Austin Menyasz added that it is important for industry to have this type of dialogue and it is good for industry perspective to get better insight from regulator.

Mr. Paul Ulrich added that 5G will be underway from now and increasing collaboration or the need for collaboration across industry is expected. He suggested to invite regulator or government body from other sector such as finance to attend the forum to get their perspective in the area that interact with telecom, internet, etc.

* + 1. **Spin-off session/Back-to-back workshop**

Chairman referred to the Working Methods of PRF under the Intersessional Electronic Working of the APT Policy & Regulatory Forum section which stated: “Where necessary, the Forum will recommend to the Management Committee the organization of special spin-off seminars, workshops and other activities for the benefit of APT members.”

He suggested to have a back-to-back workshop on the topic of common interest or emerging issues before the PRF so that the outcome of the workshop can be discussed in PRF.

Secretary General replied that in 2020 APT would organize several preparation meetings for ITU World Conferences/ Assembly. In addition, new Strategic Plan had to be prepared and adopted by the General Assembly at the end of the year. So, next year there will be more back-to-back meetings, which would need to be approved by the MC.

Chairman requested Secretariat to explore the possibility for having an event back-to-back with PRF. What topic could be best for such workshop could be looked into later. He also suggested that Singapore Statement should be used as a basis for the formulation of the Strategic Plan.

Secretary General commented that in the last cycle for preparing the Strategic Plan, APT had setup the Correspondence Group which had been joined by many Members to prepare for it. Secretariat planned to have the same mechanism. In preparing for Singapore Statement, the expert has contributed and discussed a lot to prepare that so many topics can be extracted from the statement to be in the new Strategic Plan.

Chairman asked the floor for the proposals for the next PRF-20. Since there was no proposal, chairman requested to floor to share it after the meeting so that we can see how best we can make PRF-20 better than PRF-19. So that PRF become more effective and more efficient.

* 1. **Election of Vice-Chairmen of PRF**

Secretary General reported that four Vice-Chairmen had been elected in 2015 in Singapore and in 2017 in Sri Lanka. According to the Working Methods, terms of Vice-Chairman is two years and extendable.

Mr. Charles Chew from Singapore, Vice-Chairman representing Southeast Asia announced that he would not continue. It was agreed that Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn from Thailand to be a new Vice-Chairman representing Southeast Asia.

Mr. Kila Gulo-Vui from Papua New Guinea, Vice-Chairman representing the Pacific also informed that he would not continue. Secretariat requested 2 weeks to coordinate with Members in the Pacific to propose the name for the Vice-Chairman and requested to the Forum that the name proposed was considered nominated by the Forum. The meeting agreed to the proposal.

Mrs. Tharalika Livera from Sri Lanka, Vice-Chairman representing South Asia, and Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun from Republic of Korea, Vice-Chairman representing East Asia would continue their term for the next two years.

Chairman invited Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn, a new Vice-Chairman to join at the head table. He then thanked current existing 2 Vice-Chairmen for their commitment and support to be Vice-Chairmen for the next term.

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| **Decision No. 03 (APT PRF-18)** |
| Plenary elected the following Vice-Chairmen for the next 2-year term.   * Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun, Vice-Chairman of PRF (East Asia) * Mrs. Tharalika Livera, Vice-Chairman of PRF (South Asia) * Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn, Vice-Chairman of PRF (Southeast Asia)   Secretariat would take 2 weeks to coordinate with Members in the Pacific to propose the name for the Vice-Chairman and the name proposed would be considered nominated by the Forum. |

* 1. **Date and Venue for PRF-20**

Secretary General informed the meeting that Cambodia that it was considering hosting next PRF-20. Cambodia informed that it would host PRF-20 subject to the approval from Minister. Confirmation would be informed soon.

* 1. **Any other matters**

Chairman requested Vice-Chairmen for their short remarks.

Ms. Mina Seonmin Jun thanked Bhutan for the great host. She mentioned that meeting has been insightful, informative and we could continue this kind of practice. As a Vice-Chairman, she would try to bring more industries to next meeting and cooperate with other countries more.

Mrs. Tharalika Livera thanked Members for keeping the confidence and support her as a Vice-Chair for the next term and she would do her best for the successful of PRF.

Ms. Kalaya Chinatiworn thanked for trust in her and looked forward to working closely with APT Members.

1. CLOSING

Secretary General delivered closing remark. She mentioned that meeting had fruitful discussions and it was a good opportunity to visit Bhutan. She hoped to have a good time in Cambodia and looked forward to seeing all in Cambodia for the next PRF. She thanked host for the hospitality and the staff of DICT for their support.

Chairman of PRF delivered closing remark. He thanked APT and Members for coming to Bhutan and giving opportunity to be the host of the PRF. For small country like Bhutan it was a good opportunity since such forum gave a lot of insight. It also provided an opportunity to know people from different part of the world. He thanked all delegates especially those who had long-hour travelled from Australia and Pacific to come to Bhutan. He thanked previous Chairman, Vice-Chairmen for the format of the meeting which gave opportunity to learn wide ranges of perspective. He also thanked colleagues from DICT for their contributions and it was the first time that they had maximum Bhutanese speakers when they have international forum.

Chairman then declared the PRF-19 closed.

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