**ITU Regional Office for the Asia Pacific**

**Concept Note**

**Regional Policy and Regulatory Webinar Series (Virtual) on 5G Engagement and Experience in partnership with Member Administrations**

**15 March 2024 (Four sessions)**

(Sharing of good practices and key elements to enable 5G Rollout and services with velocity)

**Background**

The Asia Pacific Region presents a microcosm of the global picture with different degrees of ICTs development and new technology adoption. ITU’s publication of IMT-2020 (5G) standards in 2020 gave impetus for commercial 5G rollout. Apart from the effective use of identified IMT bands as a key resource, the 5G rollout is reported to have several policy and regulatory dimensions that demand a holistic policy and regulatory approach.

It is relevant to mention that the ASP regional Initiative 2 focuses on harnessing telecommunication / ICT technologies. *ASP RI 2 ASP2: Harnessing Information And Communication Technologies To Support The Digital Economy And Inclusive Digital Societies*

Further, the expected result states, “ Acceleration of digital infrastructure readiness through the timely deployment of optical fibre, 4G and 5G technologies, and ICT/mobile applications in order to improve the delivery of value-added services in sectors such as health, education, environment, agriculture, governance, energy, financial services and e-commerce.”

Some of the ITU reports viz. [Setting the scene for 5G: Opportunities and Challenges](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Documents/ITU_5G_REPORT-2018.pdf) (2018), [ICT Infrastructure Business Planning Toolkit – 5G networks](https://www.itu.int/pub/D-PREF-EF.ICT_STRUCT_KIT-2023) (2019), [Digital Infrastructure Policy and Regulation in the Asia-Pacific Region September](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/SiteAssets/Pages/Events/2019/RRITP2019/ASP/ITU_2019_Digital_Infrastructure_5Sep2019FNL.pdf) (2019), [Best Practice Guidelines Regulatory and economic incentives for an inclusive sustainable digital future](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/meetings/gsr-23/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2023/06/GSR-23_Best-Practice-Guidelines-E.pdf) (2023) elaborate enablers and factors for consideration in enabling the timely rollout of digital infrastructure, importance of incentivization, and policy and business considerations.

**Regional Policy and Regulatory Webinar Series (Virtual) on 5G Engagement and Experience**

In the above context, the proposed webinar focuses on 5G Engagement and Experience sharing as elaborated in the following sections.

While some countries in the region have made significant large-scale 5G rollout, there are some countries still working on 5G rollout plans. The following table indicates disparities in the rollout and in adoption.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Region\_name** | **Sub-region\_name** | **Type of Connections** | **#****(Q2 2023)** | **5G as a % of 4G** |
| Asia | South East Asia | 4G | 66,23,61,020 |  |
| South East Asia | 5G | 3,27,48,170 | 4.9% |
| Southern Asia | 4G | 1,17,87,08,669 |  |
| Southern Asia | 5G | 4,38,83,944 | 3.7% |
| Eastern Asia | 4G | 1,19,13,95,974 |  |
| Eastern Asia | 5G | 81,63,66,747 | 68.5% |

Source: GSMA

Densification of cell-sites due to the use of higher frequency bands, right of way approvals to enable gigabit connectivity for the backhaul, access to street furniture for deploying small cells & hotspots, affordability of 5G devices, innovation in the development and adoption of use cases characterise 5G rollout distinct from 4G rollout of the previous era. This points to the opportunity and need for a significant policy enablement. Further, the capabilities of 5G technology such as eMBB, mMTC, uRLLC[[1]](#footnote-2) are envisaged to have several socioeconomic use cases[[2]](#footnote-3) which require ideation, development, prototyping, collaborative regulation to enable commercial rollout. Fixed Wireless Access (FWA) is an important use case for connecting the unconnected in remote areas to enhance the footprint of universal and meaningful connectivity, especially to cover hilly areas and other terrains with geographical challenges of fibre reach in a cost-effective manner.

Experts view that a three-pronged approach i.e., policy and regulatory enablement and incentivisation[[3]](#footnote-4), investment[[4]](#footnote-5) , and use cases drive the 5G engagement to reap the benefits of IMT 2020 technologies to further digital transformation. Adding to this, building awareness of 5G capabilities for enterprise use, skill and capacity development are also important, cutting across verticals.

The 4th ASEAN conference on 5G (December 2023) and India Mobile Congress (IMC) 2023 (October 2023) showcased members' interest and progress made in terms of infrastructure rollout and use case development. However, there is a significant disparity in rollout and adoption, as seen in the above table. As per the above GSMA data, the progress of rollout in South and Southeast Asian countries is still low.

During the OP-24 consultation process, a few countries have also expressed interest and sought support for policy inputs and capacity building on 5G rollout and 5G innovation. In the region, some of the countries, including China, Japan, Korea, India, Australia, Singapore are reported to have deployed 5G in a large scale along with 5G use cases. This allows policymakers and regulators from some countries to share experiences for a wider dissemination of necessary actions. Furthermore, regulators and policymakers from other countries where the plans/rollout are in the taking off stage, to speak about their expectations and challenges, then it would be a fruitful engagement for the workshop to capture both challenges and best practices.

The ”*Key enablers for 5G adoption among Asia-Pacific countries*”, report, first presented during the RDF 2023 presented the findings and recommendations to guide policymakers, regulators, industry players, and other relevant stakeholders in their efforts to foster an enabling environment for the successful deployment and utilization of 5G technology in their respective countries. Ultimately, the goal is to unlock the immense benefits of 5G, ranging from enhanced mobile broadband to transformative applications in sectors like healthcare, transportation, and industry, thereby contributing to national socioeconomic development and competitiveness in the digital age.

In the above context, it is proposed to host a 4-session webinar series on 5G enablers report, Rollout, Usecases and Spectrum in partnership some of the member states to share on policy and regulatory dimensions from the administrations and industry.

**Proposed activity**: A webinar series on various dimensions of 5G engagement organised jointly to enhance member states’ capacities on 5G rollout and use of 5G services.

**Objectives**:

* To enhance capacities for policy and regulatory authorities on 5G rollout and services through experience sharing and enable 5G collaboration
* to provide a holistic view of 5G rollout and applications.
* to identify key policy and regulatory aspects and learn about its impact

**Expected Outputs**:

* Dissemination of Good policy and regulatory practices on 5G engagement including rollout, usecases, policy innovation from the region
* Enhanced capacities in developing holistic policy and regulatory frameworks for effective and efficient rollout of 5G to reap benefits in socioeconomic verticals.

**Target Audience**

* Senior leadership from Policy and Regulatory bodies
* Mid to senior-level government officials of Asia Pacific Member States from Policy and Regulation development, Standards, Spectrum, Capacity development divisions
* Experts and practitioners in 5G policy development and implementation
* Representatives of ITU membership from industry and academia

*All the four sessions are proposed during the BKK: 12.00-14.30 Hrs to enable wider participation from different time zones. (China: 13.00-15.30; Japan: 14.00-16.30; India: 10.30-13.00; Australia: 16.00-18.30). Dates are yet to be identified.*

**Sessions**

1. Report on Key enablers for 5G adoption among Asia-Pacific countries - Engagement and Experience Sharing

2. 5G Usecases - Engagement and Experience Sharing

3. 5G Network rollout - Engagement and Experience Sharing

4. 5G Spectrum - Engagement and Experience Sharing

**Program**

**Session 1: ITU Report - Key enablers for 5G adoption among Asia-Pacific countries, Engagement and Experience Sharing;**

15 March 2024: Co-hosted by TRC, MPTC, Cambodia (*BKK: 12.00-14.00 Hrs)*

**Focus Area**: 5G Enablers Report

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Duration (~)** | **Topic** | Target audience from ASP Members |
| 12.00-14.00 (~) | 15 mts | Opening Remarks – RD, ITUKeynote: TRC, MPTC Cambodia | Regulators, Policy Makers, Industry, and other stakeholders  |
| 10+10 mts | Presentations from TRC, MPTC on the Status of 5G |  |
| 15+15 mts | Executive High-Level Presentation and Q&A - Key Policy and Regulatory Facilitation – Prof. Yoon |  |
| 30 mts | Elaborative Presentation - Prof. Yoon |  |
| 30 mts | Interventions, Discussion, and Q&A |  |
|  | Summing up |  |

**Session 2: 5G Usecases - Engagement and Experience Sharing**

21 March 2024: Co-hosted by CAICT, China (*BKK: 12.00-14.30 Hrs)*

**Focus Area**: Innovative 5G Usecases in verticals and Scaling up

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Duration**  | **Topic** | Target audience from ASP Members |
| 12.00-14.30  | 15 mts | Opening Remarks – RD, ITUKeynote: CAICT | Regulators and Policy Makers  |
| 70 mts | Innovative 5G usecases deployed and scaled in socioeconomic verticals – Industry including service providers | 5G Usecase deployed in different verticals and their adoption & impact |
| 30 mts | Policy and Regulatory Enablement and Capacity Development- CAICT | Incentivisation and enablement in terms of spectrum, adoption, cross-sectoral collaboration and policy & regulatory measures |
| 30 mts | Interventions, Discussion, and Q&A |  |
| 5 mts | Summing up |  |

**Session 3: 5G Network rollout - Engagement and Experience Sharing**

Date TBC March / April 2024: Co-hosted by TRAI / DoT / NTIPRIT, India (*BKK: 12.00-14.30 Hrs)*

**Focus Area**: Enabling an Effective 5G Rollout

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Duration**  | **Topic** | Target audience from ASP Members |
| 12.00-14.30  | 15 mts | Opening Remarks – RD, ITUKeynote: TRAI/DoT/NTIPRIT | Regulators and Policy Makers  |
| 30 mts | Regulatory Enablement - TRAI | Regulatory and policy recommendations to trigger efficient 5G rollout and  |
| 30 mts | Policy Enablement and Policy Innovation in Infrastructure Rollout- DoT | Incentivisation and enablement in terms of spectrum pricing, RoW, small cells, approval processes, Infrastructure sharing, Rollout obligations |
| 40 mts | The rollout of infrastructure, services, and aspects of affordability – Service Providers (preferably two) | Rollout issues, services, pricing |
| 30 mts | Interventions, Discussion, and Q&A |  |
| 5 mts | Summing up |  |

**Session 4: 5G Spectrum - Engagement and Experience Sharing**

Date TBC March / April 2024: Under Planning (*BKK: 12.00-14.30 Hrs)*

**Focus Area**: Spectrum - Harmonization and Offering for various IMT services including 5G

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Time** | **Duration**  | **Topic** | Target audience from ASP Members |
| 12.00-14.30  | 10 mts | Opening Remarks – RD, ITUKeynote: Korea | Regulators and Policy Makers  |
| 30 mts | Key outcomes of WRC 2023 - ITU |  |
| 75 – 90 mts | Spectrum Harmonization, allocation, assignment methodology and costing for various IMT services including 5G in public and private networks, Policy innovation – Government / Industry |  |
| 15-30 mts | Interventions, Discussion, and Q&A |  |
| 5 mts | Summing up |  |

**Methodology:**

* Presentations by policy and regulation practitioners, Subject matter experts, and the industry from the region and interactive sessions
* Interactive discussion

**Resources required:**

* Online Platform support from ITU

During the OP-24 consultation process, a few countries have expressed interest and sought support for inputs and capacity building on 5G rollout and 5G innovation. In the region, a few countries have deployed 5G in a large scale along with 5G use cases. The webinar series is envisaged to provide an opportunity for policymakers and regulators to share their experiences for wider dissemination. Furthermore, the 5G enablers report is proposed to be presented in the first session, taking forward the discussions from its first sharing during the RDF 2023 in Bangkok to enhance its awareness with a focus on regulators and policymakers from the countries where the work on 5G plans/rollout is taking off.

1. ITU Report ITU-R M 20283, Enhanced Mobile Broadband, Massive Machine Type Communications, Ultrareliable Low Latency Communications [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. ITU Report ITU-R M 20283 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. GSR 23 Best Practices Guidelines – Regulatory and economic incentives for an inclusive sustainable digital future (ITU) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. ICT infrastructure business planning toolkit – 5G networks (ITU) [↑](#footnote-ref-5)