Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

Ref.   BDT/IEE/RME/DM/049   Geneva, 20 May 2015

To ITU Member Administrations ,
Regulators, ITU-D Sector
Members and Academia
Members in the Asia-Pacific
Region

Subject: **(1) ITU-MCMC International Training Programme 2015 (26-28 August 2015)**

(2) Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Telecommunication/ICT and Financial Regulators on Digital Financial Inclusion (26 August 2015 morning)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the ITU-MCMC International Training Programme 2015 (ITP 2015) that will be held on 26-28 August 2015 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The ITP 2015 is co-organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) which is kindly hosted by MCMC and supported by the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia and the Department of Communications, Government of Australia.

The ITP 2015 aims at building skills on the policy and regulatory issues in a fully connected digital economy and how the regulations need to adapt to rapidly developing global and regional environments. The Training will highlight the building blocks of policy and regulatory enablers required to ensure regulatory measures remain appropriate for the new environment. It will bring together international experiences in this area with focus on Malaysia's experiences and lessons learnt. Draft Agenda is attached (Annex 1).

The ITP will be conducted in English and will be paperless. Interested participants are requested to register your interest as soon as possible but not later than 31 July 2015.

ITU is pleased to inform you that we will provide one partial fellowship (Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA) only) to one participant duly authorized by the respective ITU Administrations from Least Developed Countries and Low-Income Developing Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, subject to available budget and full participation in the ITP 2015. The last date for fellowship application is 31 July 2015.

The ITP 2015 programme will be updated regularly and will be available at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2015/Aug-ITP/home.aspx . Fellowship application forms, registration forms and other details on accommodation reservation and useful information for participants for the ITP 2015 are also available at the same link.

We are also pleased to invite you to participate in the ITU-MCMC Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Telecommunication/ICT and Financial Regulators on Digital Financial Inclusion on 26 August 2015 (morning only) in the same venue where financial regulators from the region have been invited to meet and engage in a discussion with telecommunication regulators on the subject: digital financial inclusion. This Forum is

open to regulators/policy makers, industry players and other relevant stakeholders from both the telecommunications and banking sectors. The provisional agenda of the Forum is attached (Annex 2) for your consideration. The Forum will be conducted in English and will be paperless.

The provisional agenda of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Telecommunication/ICT and Financial Regulators on Digital Financial Inclusion will be updated regularly and will be available at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2015/Aug-DigitalFinancialInclusion/home.aspx . Registration forms and other details on accommodation reservation and useful information for participants for the Forum are available at the same link.

Ms Aurora A. Rubio of ITU Area Office in Jakarta is at your disposal (telephone +62 21 3802322, email aurora.rubio@itu.int) should you require any information and/or assistance related to the two events.

We look forward to your positive reply at your earliest convenience and to welcoming you and your colleagues to Kuala Lumpur.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annexes: 1. Draft Agenda for the International Training Programme
          2. Provisional agenda of the Forum

ITU-MCMC International Training Program 2015

26-28 August 2015
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

		Day 1: Wednesday 26 August	Day 2: Thursday 27 August	Day 3: Friday 28 August
8.30 – 9.00			TEA/COFFEE	
9.00 - 10.30			**Spectrum Management** Tentative topics: • Malaysian Spectrum Licensing Framework • Reaping the benefits of the Digital Dividend • The Economics of Spectrum • Apparatus and Class Assignments	**Cybersecurity** Tentative topics: • Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) • Wireless Security Risks and Practices • Promoting Cybersecurity and Cyberwellness
10.30 – 11.00			MORNING TEA	MORNING TEA
11.00 – 12.30			**Digital Transactions and Mobile Payments** Tentative topics: • Enabling Instruments • Standards for secure payments • Country Case Studies: regulatory and operational challenges	**Dispute Resolution: a key element for effective market** Tentative topics: • Why Dispute Resolution is key to an enabling environment • Dispute Resolution Techniques • Disputes and Resolution Approaches • Models and Country Cases
12.30 – 14.00		REGISTRATION	LUNCH	LUNCH
14.00 – 15.30		**Welcome: MCMC/ITU** • Chairman, MCMC • Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Tentative topics: • Transformation of the MCMC • Roles of Regulators in meeting socio-economic goals	**Broadband as a Basic Social Infrastructure** Tentative topics: • Regulatory Tools to achieve universal broadband • Innovative Investment and Financing Mechanisms for Broadband • ICTs as a core element of the SDGs	**Reinvigorating National Telecommunication Training and Research Institutes for Innovation** Tentative topics: • Models and Funding • Continuing education and capacity building of Trainers and Researchers • Country Cases
15.30 – 16.00		AFTERNOON TEA	AFTERNOON TEA	AFTERNOON TEA
16.00 – 17.00		**Competition Issues** Tentative Topics • Defining markets , significant market power and dominance • Mergers and Acquisitions • Regulating Interconnection, Access and Pricing	**OTT and Net Neutrality** Tentative Topics: • OTT: different types of services and business models • Policy and Regulatory Approaches • Country Cases	**Closing Session: MCMC/ITU**

TheAsia-Pacific Regional Forum for Telecommunication/ICT and Financial Regulators on Digital Financial Inclusion

Organized by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and International Telecommunication Union

26 August 2015
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Supported by:

Ministry of Communications and Multimedia, Malaysia

Department of Communications, Government of Australia

Gates Foundation

The Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Telecommunication/ICT and Financial Regulators on Digital Financial Inclusion

26 August 2015
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

1   BACKGROUND

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) have an immense impact on virtually all aspects of our lives. ICT has become a significant factor for economic and social development in all countries around the world. The rapid progress of these technologies creates new opportunities to attain higher levels of development. The capacity of ICTs to reduce many traditional obstacles, especially those of time, distance and financial status makes it possible to use the potential of these technologies for the benefit of millions of people in all corners of the world. Under favourable conditions, these technologies can be a powerful instrument, increasing productivity, generating economic growth, job creation and employability and improving the quality of life of all.

Unfortunately, the benefits of the information technology revolution are today unevenly distributed between the developed and developing countries and within societies. World leaders at the World Summit Information Society (WSIS) committed to turning this digital divide into a digital opportunity for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized.

The Financially Excluded

Globally, more than 2.5 billion adults, mostly in developing economies, are considered "financially excluded" as they do not access to basic financial services such as formal bank account at a financial institution and operate almost entirely in cash.

Lack or limited access to financial services represents a barrier to socio-economic development in particular for developing countries. Mobile money can be a game changer for people of limited income and an enabler for financial inclusion in developing countries. The recent growth of digital financial services has allowed millions of people who are

otherwise excluded from the formal financial system to perform financial transactions relatively cheaply, securely, and reliably.

Financial inclusion is a must in a digital world as it allows access to all aspects of the digital economy (payment, education, health, etc.). Its overarching and cross-cutting nature has been recognized by leaders of the G20 Summit in Seoul who included it as one of the main pillars for the global development agenda.

Achieving financial inclusion would require commitments and engagement from political leaders, regulators, the private sector and other stakeholders from various sectors.

In this connection and in commemoration of the ITU's 150th anniversary, the International Telecommunication Union, the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia of Malaysia and the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission are jointly organizing the "Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Telecommunication/ICT and Financial Regulators on Digital Financial Inclusion" to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 26 August 2015. The Forum is in line with the ITU's August anniversary theme: 'Innovation to Bridge the Digital Divide'.

2   Objectives

Asia-Pacific Regional Forum for Telecommunication/ICT and Financial Regulators on Digital Financial Inclusion will be organized immediately after the ITU-MCMC Asia-Pacific Regulators Roundtable where respective regulators from the telecommunication/ICT and financial/banking sectors, together with relevant service providers and stakeholders will be invited to participate in said Forum.

The Forum will contribute to ongoing global activities related to ensuring that people who are "financially excluded", including people with the lowest incomes are targeted by efforts to bridge the digital divide.

Specific objectives of the Forum are to:

(i)   Provide a platform where financial and telecommunication regulators would discuss and address current and emerging opportunities, issues and challenges related to digital financial services, share their specialized knowledge and experience and analyze ways in which they can cooperate to promote these services in their respective countries.

(ii)   Support financial and telecommunication regulators to understand the current state of digital financial services, to clarify/define their roles and responsibilities, discuss possible regulatory approach to best fit the market context (to avoid overlap or gap).

(iii)   Establish liaisons and relationships with other relevant organizations which could contribute to the promotion of reliable, safe and affordable digital financial services

(iv)   Plan for a regular regional platform for promoting continuing dialogue and longer term cooperation.

PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

26 August 2015	
08:30−09:00	**Registration**

09:00−09:15	**Opening Session**
	
	    Address by the Guest of Honor
	    Opening Address by ITU

09:15 – 09:20	**GROUP PHOTO**

09:20 – 10:40	**Bridging the digital divide: Targeting the "financially excluded"**
	
	Ensuring full digital financial inclusion is of utmost importance in a digital world where more people have a mobile phone than a bank account. Reducing not only the digital divide but also the financial/banking divide will empower the population with the lowest income to be part of the digital society and ultimately foster socio and economic growth. Different digital and mobile banking ecosystems and models have been developed, following different regulatory and policy approaches leading to various experiences and degrees of successes. Learning from these experiences, the regulatory frameworks in place, the various roles of financial and ICT regulators and the views of the market players will help shape the discussions on means to achieve digital financial inclusion.
	
	    • Regulatory environment for digital financial services
	    • Bank-Led and/or non-bank-led (operator and third party) approaches
	    • Roles of financial regulators (central banks) and ICT regulators: How to build synergies at the national level?

10:40 − 12:00	**Performing digital financial transactions relatively cheaply, securely, and reliably**
	
	    • What kinds of digital financial services are available? Sending and receiving payments, micro-credits and loans, international remittances, etc
	
	    • Technology trends in digital financial services over the coming years and how the role of various stakeholders in this ecosystem will evolve
	
	    • Promoting safe and secure payments
	
	    • Interoperability

12:00 – 12:20	**Issues, Challenges and Opportunities: SETTING IT RIGHT** This Session will provide participants with opportunities to hold concluding discussions on forward looking approaches to strengthen national and regional collaboration on digital financial inclusion.
12:20 – 12:30	**Closing Session**