



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 30 June 2015

To

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members, Associates, Academia
- Regional Organisations
in the Asia-Pacific Region

Subject: **Digital Strategies for Development Summit 2015: Accelerating Inclusive Development through ICT Innovation” - A Knowledge Exchange Forum for Asia-Pacific Region and Beyond (DSDS 2015); 22-24 September 2015, Cebu City Philippines**

Dear Sir/Madam,

It is our pleasure, on behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Department of Science and Technology – Information and Communication Technology Office (DOST-ICTO) Philippines, to invite you to participate in the Digital Strategies for Development Summit 2015 - *A Knowledge Exchange Forum for Asia-Pacific Region and Beyond* (DSDS 2015) that will be held on 22-24 September in Cebu City, Philippines. DSDS 2015 is hosted by DOST-ICTO and supported by the Department of Communications, Government of Australia and the Telecentre Foundation.

DSDS 2015, under the central theme: *“Accelerating Inclusive Development through ICT Innovation,”* aims to provide a platform for high level participants from telecommunications/ICT policy makers, regulators, industry, SMEs, tech hubs, innovation labs, academia and development partners in the Asia-Pacific region, that fosters dynamic and strategic discussions, sharing of information, real experiences, practices and initiatives on promising solutions to address emerging challenges in promoting inclusive growth and development through ICTs. DSDS 2015 will present initiatives and opportunities for collaboration in the development and use of innovative ICT solutions for digital inclusion and empowerment, including youth employment and entrepreneurship and persons with disabilities.

A Provisional Programme for DSDS 2015 is attached for your reference. The Programme will be updated regularly and will be available at <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2015/Sept-KEC15/home.aspx>. The registration form, fellowship application form and other details on accommodation reservation and useful information for participants for the event will also be available at the same link. Please also note that DSDS 2015 will be conducted in English and will be paperless. You are invited to send your completed registration forms on or before 28 August 2015.

ITU is pleased to provide one full fellowship to one participant duly authorized by the respective ITU Administrations from eligible countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, subject to available budget, to facilitate their participation in this important Summit. The deadline for fellowship application is 28 August 2015.

Ms. Aurora A. Rubio, Head of ITU Area Office for South East Asia (aurora.rubio@itu.int) is at the disposal of participants who require assistance in participating in the DSDS 2015.

Please contact Ms. Macie Chavez of DOST-ICTO (tel: +632 9200101, e: macie.chavez@icto.dost.gov.ph) should you require assistance in registering for the event.

We look forward to your active participation and contribution to the success of DSDS 2015.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director
Telecommunication Development Bureau
International Telecommunication Union

[Original signed]

Louis Napoleon C. Casambre
Under Secretary
Information and Communications Technology
Office (ICTO)
Department of Science and Technology



Digital Strategies for Development Summit 2015: *Accelerating Inclusive Development through ICT Innovation*
A Knowledge Exchange Forum for Asia-Pacific Region and Beyond (DSDS 2015)

22-24 September 2015, Cebu City Philippines

PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 22, 2015 (DAY 1) *	
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Registration
9:00 am - 9:10 am	Invocation & National Anthem
9:10 am - 9:20 am	Welcome Remarks Hon. Louis Napoleon C. Casambre <i>Undersecretary, Information and Communications Technology Office, Department of Science and Technology; Philippines</i>
9:20 am - 9:40 am	Keynote Address H.E. Houlin Zhao <i>Secretary General, International Telecommunication Union; Switzerland</i>
9:40 am - 10:00 am	Opening Remarks H.E. Mario G. Montejo <i>Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; Philippines</i>
10:00 am - 10:15 am	Group Photo
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Opening of the Exhibit: Ribbon Cutting - <i>Startups</i> - <i>Solutions Showcase</i>
10:30 am - 11:00 am	Networking Coffee Breaks
11:00 am - 11:30 am	Forum Overview and Announcements
11:30 am - 12:45 pm	Plenary 1: Innovative ICTs for Youth Employment, SMEs and Entrepreneurship Objective: The Plenary will highlight best practices in using ICTs to promote youth employment, SME growth and entrepreneurship. The Plenary will further explore current trends globally and in the Asia-Pacific region, and will identify strategies that can be adopted among governments, industry and academia to support youth employment and entrepreneurship. Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Digital opportunities: ICT solutions for youth employment and entrepreneurship ;• Leveraging on the Youth, the Digital Natives;• Addressing ICT Skills Mismatch;• Promoting a culture of creating jobs, developing innovative ideas, diversifying the local economy, and generating activity and wealth through youth entrepreneurship



	and a vibrant SME sector.
12:45 pm - 2:00 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Plenary 2: ICT Innovation and Partnerships for Sustainable Rural Development Objective: The Plenary will debate on the different aspects, challenges and opportunities in promoting sustainable rural development through innovative ICTs, while coming up with recommendations and plan of action on policy, strategies, partnerships and collaboration. Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Innovative Models and Solutions on Reaching the Unserved and Underserved;• Mobilizing Public-Private Partnerships;• Linking ICTs with Agriculture, Education and Healthcare in the Rural Areas;• Innovative ICTs as a cross-cutting enabler for an inclusive and sustainable connected society.
3:15 pm – 3:45 pm	Networking Coffee Breaks
3:45 pm – 5:00 pm	Plenary 3: Showcasing Innovative ICT Solutions Objective: The Plenary is aimed at helping policy makers, investors, planners and other stakeholders realize the vision of driving inclusive and sustainable growth in cities and villages using the capacity of ICT for the well-being of rural and urban dwellers. It will also focus on, inter alia: best practices, trends, benefits, challenges and opportunities in the area of m- and e-solutions, applications and services including their adoption. Topics to be discussed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICT Solutions for Smart and Eco-friendly Cities and Villages;• ICT Solutions for Persons with Specific Needs, including persons with disabilities;• Innovative ICT Solutions for Education, Health, Agriculture and Governance.
7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Dinner <i>(Venue and arrangements to be confirmed)</i>
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015 (DAY 2)*	
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Announcements
Breakout Sessions	
Objective: The Breakout Sessions are aimed at integrating the lessons learned from the Plenaries to five different sectors: 1) Health, 2) Climate Change and Disaster Management, 3) Non-Formal Digital Skills	



Development, 4) Agriculture and Food Security, and 5) Citizenship and Governance.					
9:00 am -12:00 nn	Breakout 1: Youth, Women & Entrepreneurship (Coffee Break at 10:30 am)				
	Health	Climate Change and Disaster Management	Non-Formal Digital Skills Development	Agriculture and Food Security	Citizenship and Governance
12:00 nn - 1:30 pm	Lunch				
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Breakout 2: Partnerships for Rural Development (Coffee Break at 3:00 pm)				
	Health	Climate Change and Disaster Management	Non-Formal Digital Skills Development	Agriculture and Food Security	Citizenship and Governance
7:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Dinner; Results of Voting & Awards (Venue and arrangements to be confirmed)				
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 (DAY 3)					
8:30 am - 9:00 am	Announcements				
9:00 am - 12:00 nn	Breakout 3: ICT Solutions Showcase (Coffee Break at 10:30 am)				
	Health	Climate Change and Disaster Management	Non-Formal Digital Skills Development	Agriculture and Food Security	Citizenship and Governance
12:00 nn - 1:30 pm	Lunch				
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	<p>Plenary: Connecting the Dots</p> <p>Objective: This session is designed to ignite the connections established between sectors wherein technology can be used to generate social impact.</p> <p>It also hopes to understand whether these technological innovations can be a cross-cutting solution to the problems being faced in the fields of entrepreneurship, youth & rural development, disaster management, healthcare provisions, education, food security and governance.</p>				



3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Closing Session
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*Ongoing voting for best solutions showcase exhibited

