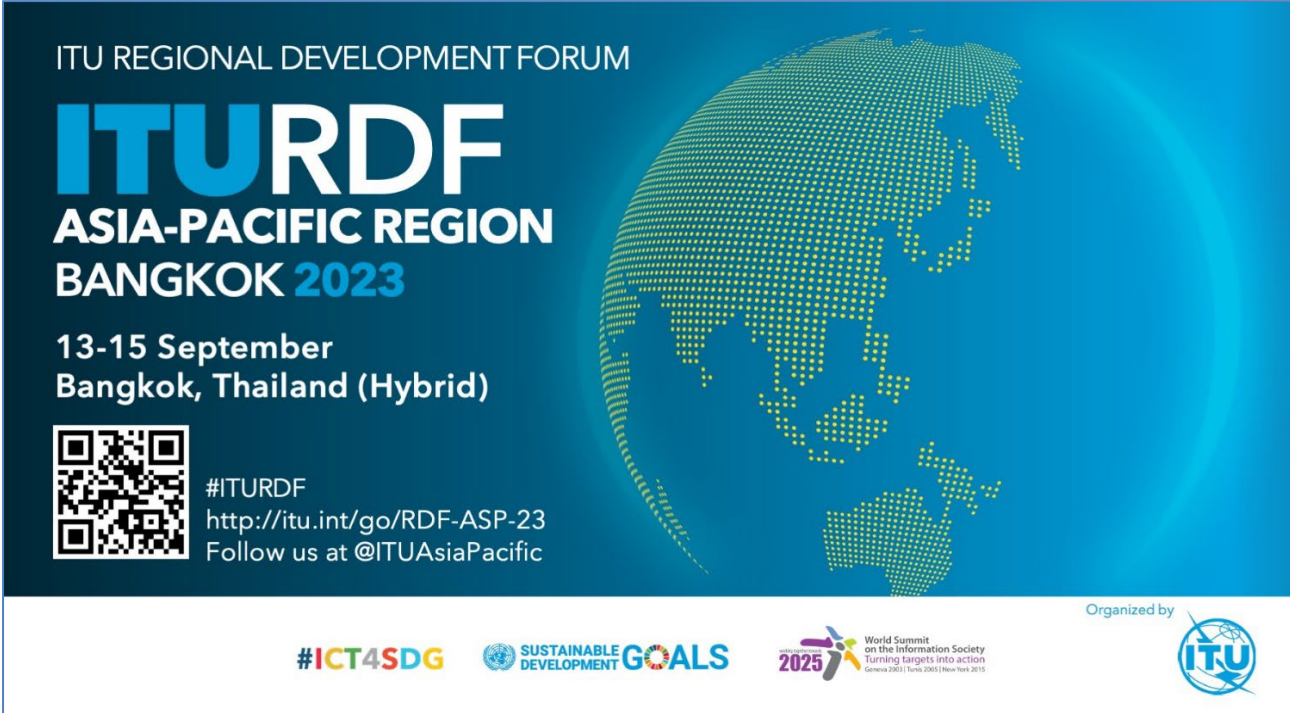


## Concept Note and Agenda




ITU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

# ITURDF

## ASIA-PACIFIC REGION


### BANGKOK 2023

13-15 September  
Bangkok, Thailand (Hybrid)



#ITURDF  
<http://itu.int/go/RDF-ASP-23>  
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### Summary

#### ➤ What:

Asia and the Pacific Regional Development Forum 2023 (ASP RDF-2023 under the theme, “Digital transformation and innovation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Supporting the SDGs” aims to identify the emerging priorities for Digital Connectivity and serve as a platform for sharing strategies with partners leading to advance universal meaningful connectivity and sustainable digital transformation. It will also focus on matchmaking Member States needs based on national and regional priorities and partner pledges made within the framework of the ITU Partner2Connect Digital Coalition currently valued at over US 30 billion dollars. There will also be an opportunity for partners to announce new pledges.

#### ➤ When & where:

- Hybrid, 13-15 September 2023.
- Place: Bangkok, Thailand
- Event webpage: <http://itu.int/go/RDF-ASP-23>
- Remote participation:  
<https://www.itu.int/net4/CRM/xreg/web/Login.aspx?src=Registration&Event=C-00012892>
- Platform: Zoom

#### ➤ Targeted participants:

Asia and the Pacific Regional Development Forum 2023 is organized to provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and decision-makers of ITU Member States, Sector Members, UN agencies and other key development stakeholders from the region.

# SESSION TIME MANAGEMENT

**13 – 15 September 2023**

Time: GMT+7 (BKK/JKT)		
Day 1 (Wednesday, 13 September 2023)	Day 2 (Thursday, 14 September 2023)	Day 3 (Friday, 15 September 2023)
<i>Main meeting room</i>		
09:00-09:45 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Opening Ceremony</b>	09:00-10:30 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Session 5: Regional Initiatives ASP 1: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable</b>	09:00-10:30 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Session 9: Regional Initiatives ASP 3: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable</b>
09:45-10:30 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Session 1: UN Resident Coordinator's session (Digital inclusion and Digital Skills)</b>		
10:30-10:40 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Signing of Joint Declaration with Huawei</b>	<u>10:30-10:45</u> <b>Coffee break (15minutes)</b>	<u>10:30-10:45</u> <b>Coffee break (15minutes)</b>
10:40-10:50 <b>RDF 2023</b>	10:45-12:15 <b>RDF 2023</b>	10:45-12:15 <b>RDF 2023</b>

Signing of Cooperation Agreement with Indosat	Session 6: Regional Initiatives ASP 2: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable	Session 10: Regional Initiatives ASP 4: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable
<u>10:50 – 11:05</u> <u>Coffee break (15minutes)</u>		
11:05-12:15  RDF 2023  Session 2: Outcomes of ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference WTDC) and Where we are (Report on the implementation of the Outcomes including Regional Initiatives)		
<u>12:15-13:45</u> <u>Lunch break (90 minutes)</u>	<u>12:15-13:45</u> <u>Lunch break (90 minutes)</u>	<u>12:15-13:45</u> <u>Lunch break (90 minutes)</u>
13:45-15:15  RDF 2023  Session 3: P2C Let's talk about the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Roundtable	13:45-14:45  RDF 2023  Session 7: Regional Regulatory Roundtable	13:45-15:15  RDF 2023  Session 11: Regional Initiatives ASP 5: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable
<u>15:15-15:30</u> <u>Coffee break (15 minutes)</u>	<u>14:45-15:00</u> <u>Coffee break (15 minutes)</u>	
15:30-16:00  RDF 2023	15:00-16:00  Session 8: <u>Partner2Connect: New pledge announcements</u>	<u>15:15-15:30</u> <u>Coffee break (15 minutes)</u>

<b>Session 4: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development</b>		15:30-16:30 <b>RDF 2023</b>
16:00-18:00 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Clinic</b>	16:00-18:00 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Clinic</b>	<b>Session 12: <u>Partner2Connect: Announcement of new Pledges</u></b> 16:30-16:45 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Summary Report and Outcomes</b> 16:45-17:00 <b>RDF 2023</b> <b>Closing Ceremony</b> <b>RDF 2023</b> 17:00-18:00 <b>Post RDF Session (TBC)</b>

## **RDF 2023 (ASP) Sessions**

### **Opening ceremony**

Formal opening session with policy statements from leadership level. The theme of the session would be “Digital transformation and innovation for a sustainable and equitable digital future: Supporting the SDGs”. A short video clip highlighting the theme and recent activities from the Asia Pacific region will be played (TBD).

### **Session 1: UN Resident Coordinator’s session**

The session would bring together development partners from agencies working under the UN umbrella in the region. The main objective of the sessions is to explore synergies in achieving SDGs by harnessing the use of ICTs. Targeted speakers are from UNRCOs and regional UN agencies.

### **Signing of Joint Declaration with Huawei**

### **Signing of a Cooperation Agreement with Indosat**

### **Session 2: Outcomes of ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) and Where we are (Report on the implementation Regional Initiatives)**

The Session will share the outcomes of the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 and will also present the Plenipotentiary Conference 2022 (in particular the agreed ITU Strategic Plan 2023-27) in as far as ITU-D work is concerned.

Additionally, the session would focus on highlighting the ICT footprint of Asia and the Pacific Region based on the ITU statistics and figures of 2022, and the needs of the region, sub-regions, or specific member country for recommended interventions. In addition to highlighting the Logical Framework of RO-ASP in the attainment of the regional needs aligned with the expected outcomes of the global priorities and the work plan adopted by the Kigali declaration, the session would share with the members a brief of ongoing partnerships including projects. The session aims to attract the blessings of stakeholders and bring members and partners including those in the UN system to contribute and collaborate towards the implementation of regional initiatives of RO-ASP.

WTDC-22 stipulated five Asia and the Pacific Regional Initiatives with the shift from activity-based implementation to result-based outcomes with impact harnessing the role of ICT in achieving Sustainable Development Goals through Digital Transformation fostering cross-sectoral collaboration. The session aims to discuss how the efforts of ITU’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, including projects through Regional Initiatives, technical assistance, training and partnerships, have contributed towards the expected results of the WTDC-22 and to encourage current and potential partners to mobilise resources to further implement the Regional Initiatives with impact and outcome.

### **Session 3: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable**

This session will introduce what is P2C, who can make a pledge and join the P2C Digital Coalition, the type of pledges and how members can benefit from submitting a pledge. Announce all the ground-breaking pledges that have been submitted so far to the [P2C platform](#) to advance universal meaningful connectivity. Encourage more members to pledge and mobilize the resources needed to connect those who are still offline.

The Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Coalition is a multistakeholder alliance launched by ITU in line with the UN Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation to foster meaningful connectivity and digital transformation globally. It focuses on but not limited to hardest- to-connect communities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

<https://www.itu.int/itu->

[d/sites/partner2connect/#:~:text=The%20Partner2Connect%20Digital%20Coalition%20works,Empowering%20communities](https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/#:~:text=The%20Partner2Connect%20Digital%20Coalition%20works,Empowering%20communities)

Existing P2C pledges shall be highlighted to illustrate how the engagement in the coalition potentially benefits the key actors and how it could function as a marketplace where the demands meet potential supportive supplies. The session shall also involve participants to access the P2C databases as well as simulating how to make the pledges. There is also a scope to invite Cambodia to share their plan to organise a national-level P2C session, which is presently being postponed.

#### **Session 4: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development**

This session will provide an overview of the background and launch of the ITU Area Office for South Asia and the Innovation Centre. It will highlight the workplan and the events and will discuss ways for the ITU-D membership to become involved with the operationalization of both the Area Office as well as the Innovation Centre. It will also highlight the newly launched initiative led by the Telecommunication Development Bureau on Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance as this topic was adopted as a regional initiative in all the regions.

#### **Session 5: Regional Initiatives ASP 1: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable**

**ASP1:** Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific Island countries, and landlocked developing countries.

This session would focus on the priority telecommunication/ICT requirements to LDCs, SIDS including Pacific Island countries, and LLDCs. Key focus of the session will be to share national developments and requirements in areas of digital transformation at national and community level (Smart Villages and Smart Islands) in the Pacific, Disaster preparedness and quality of service. The session would also share ongoing and forthcoming programmes and projects and highlight opportunities for partnerships.

#### **Session 6: Regional Initiatives ASP 2: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable**

**ASP2:** Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies.

This session focuses on bridging the digital and digital skills divide, particularly in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs in utilizing ICT and emerging technology to benefit the digital economy and digital society. Within this context, this session will provide an update and an overview of the Whole-of-Government Approach and GovStack initiatives which aims to help countries jumpstart their digital transformation journeys, facilitating long-term and sustainable digital transformation and the application of emerging ICTs. This session will highlight the roles of key stakeholders from Ministries, the UN, and Academia Institutions who are central to these activities, with particular focus on the Govstack, Smart Village Smart Island, and Digital Transformation Centres. Designed in a physical format, this session will feature a keynote presentation and dialogue from these key stakeholders, aiming to foster collaboration and insightful exchanges.

#### **Session 7: Regional Regulatory Roundtable**

Artificial intelligence has made significant progress in recent years. However, there are few agreed upon principles about what “safe” AI development even looks like. It may be difficult to regulate AI due to its complexity and rapid development. Over-regulation could lead to a lack of flexibility and adaptability in using AI. On the other hand, under regulation may create risks and bias, which could harm human beings. This session focuses on how to better regulate AI with consideration to ethical aspects.

#### **Session 8: Partner2Connect: Announcement of new pledges**

This session will elaborate on the overview of the pledges from industry have been submitted so far to the P2C platform in the Asia and the Pacific Region. Encourage more private sectors to make the pledge and join P2C Dialogue.

### **Session 9: Regional Initiatives ASP 3: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable**

**ASP3:** Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected

The network infrastructure is the basic requirement to support digital services and the digital development of all major government sectors. The connectivity options would foster national efforts on reducing the digital divide in each country and benchmark affordable and meaningful access to communities. This session would focus on highlighting the ITU's initiatives to promote affordable and meaningful access to all, and build resilience in national ICT network infrastructure. The session would highlight ITU products to facilitate development of infrastructure for meaningful connectivity and specific initiatives focusing on sub-regions and selected countries of ASP. Furthermore, the session would also focus on the need to harmonize the national spectrum allocation strategies in line with Radio Regulations agreed at World Radio Conferences.

### **Session 10: Regional Initiatives ASP 4: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable**

**ASP4:** Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is integral to the Future of Asia. Regional governments have started to recognize how important AI is to their economies and digital transformation agenda, hence turning their attention to compelling AI strategies. Despite AI potential, policymakers in Asia Pacific are facing an ethical dilemma to ensure that applications are only deployed once they are safe for the public. Further, AI systems can exhibit biases that stem from their programming and data sources. For women, this can be translated to cases of discrimination, stereotyping, and exclusion. It will be important to consider gender-sensitive policies to harness these innovations in the best possible way. In Asia and the Pacific, Girls in ICT initiative took efforts to introduce AI and gender bias that featured expert presentations that illuminated AI fundamentals and its potential impact to girls and young women in the region. By recognizing and understanding these biases, policymakers can develop gender-sensitive policies that promote responsible and inclusive AI deployment. This session would focus on highlighting the ITU's initiatives to improve capacity and awareness among related stakeholders, especially the policy makers, as well as enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement, participation and coordination on AI technology standards and policy processes that support gender and social inclusions.

### **Session 11: Regional Initiatives ASP 5: Partner2Connect Matchmaking Roundtable**

**ASP5:** Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment

This session focuses on Regional Initiative 5, Contributing to a secure and resilient information and communication technology environment. Noting the cybersecurity discussions in the previous day's Session 10, Session 11 will specifically highlight the state of secure and resilient ICT in the Asia-Pacific region, including to combat the effects of climate change. It will feature a conversation highlighting the circular economy and e-waste, national emergency telecommunications planning, early warning for all, CAP and national cybersecurity. Designed in a physical format, this session will feature a dialogue from key stakeholders involved in each of these domains, aiming to foster collaboration and insightful exchanges on enhancing ICT security and resilience.

### **Session 12: Partner2Connect: Announcement of new Pledges**

This session will introduce and elaborate on the expectations of the P2C programme for Academia members and how it benefits participating organisations. We will introduce a few examples of pledges in the Asia and the Pacific Region so the audience can picture what the potential collaboration and impact Academia members can create together. We will encourage participants from Academic to join P2C.

### **Summary Report and Outcomes**

This session will elaborate on the overall session delivered at the Regional Development Forum for Asia and the Pacific this year. Its purpose is to encourage current and potential partners to mobilize resources for the further implementation of the Regional Initiatives, with a focus on generating impact and achieving desired

outcomes. The session will also provide a platform to share the next steps and actions that the regional office can undertake to assist member states, sector members, and academia in Asia and the Pacific.

### **Closing Ceremony**

Formal closing session with policy statements from leadership level as to conclude the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific 2023.

### **Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Clinic**

The main objectives of the DFS Security Clinic are to provide insights into the recommendations on digital financial services security that can be adopted by regulators and DFS providers.

The event will provide insights into:

- Security best practices for SIM swaps and addressing fraud in digital financial services
- Addressing the threats and vulnerabilities of mobile payment applications operating on USSD, STK and Android
- Methodology for testing security of mobile payment applications
- Security controls to be implemented to address infrastructure vulnerabilities such as SS7