**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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To:
- ITU Member States (ASP Region)
- ITU Sector Members (ASP Region)
- Regional and International Organizations
- Industry and telecom operators and service providers (ASP Region)
- Academia and Institutions

Subject: ITU/NBTC/ADB Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Universal Access and Service and Broadband Deployment, 25-27 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the First ICTD-ASP Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Universal Access and Service and Broadband Deployment, which will be held on 25-27 March 2015 at Pullman Bangkok Kingpower Hotel, Thailand. The Forum is jointly organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand (NBTC), with support from the Department of Communications, Australian Government.

The Forum is the first of the series of annual regional forums on universal access and service and broadband deployment in the Asia-Pacific region under an ADB/ITU joint framework on ICT for Development in the Asia-Pacific region (ICTD-ASP). The Forum features three-day plenary meetings, focused group meetings, and exhibition. It is aimed to, inter alia:

- Provide a face-to-face platform for all relevant stakeholders to meet, discuss, share and exchange information, knowledge, and issues concerning Universal Access and Service as well as broadband deployment;
- Exhibit project cases under the framework of Universal Service Obligation;
- Strengthen the ICTD-ASP partnership framework among member countries, relevant stakeholders and potential partners;
- Promote an establishment of a network of USO policy makers so as to update and exchange information among each other;
- Provide a forum for ICTD-ASP stakeholders and potential partners to discuss about potential projects that may be implemented under the ICTD-ASP framework.

The Forum targets policy makers, national regulatory authorities, practitioners, scholars, financiers, public and private sector including NGOs and the civil society and all other relevant stakeholders in making, implementing, and promoting the Universal Access and Service and/or National Broadband Policy in their respective countries or internationally.

Please find enclosed herewith the Forum's provisional programme for your perusal. The Forum's latest information, including its updated agenda, practical information for participants and request for fellowship form are available at the forum website:
http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2015/March-USO-BB/home.aspx
or, http://www.ictd-asp.org/usoforum/

To register for the Forum, participants are requested to complete the online registration form at the website mentioned above **before 6 March 2015**.

ITU and ADB are pleased to provide fellowships for eligible countries subject to availability of funds and on first-come-first-serve basis. Priority will be given to those who will prepare and present related county case(s) and/or report(s) in the Forum. Applicants requesting fellowships are required to submit their fellowship request forms duly signed by the designated official of their respective Administration no later than **6 March 2015.**

Mr Wisit Atipayakoon, ITU Regional Office for Asia-Pacific Region in Bangkok (wisit.atipayakoon@itu.int) is at the disposal of participants who require assistance.

I look forward to your active participation in this important event.

Yours faithfully,

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex: Provisional programme