



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/IEE/RME/DM/140

Geneva, 14 March 2016

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

Subject: **ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific Region on “ICTs for Smart Sustainable Asia-Pacific”
6-7 June 2016, Manila, Philippines**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the ITU Regional Development Forum for Asia-Pacific Region (RDF-ASP2016) on “ICTs for Smart Sustainable Asia-Pacific” that will be held on 6-7 June 2016 in Manila, Philippines. The Forum is organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with and hosted by the Department of Science and Technology - Information and Communication Technology Office (DOST-ICTO), Philippines and with the support from the Department of Communications and the Arts, Government of Australia.

RDF-ASP2016 aims to provide a platform for high-level dialogue between and among the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the decision makers of the ITU Member States, Sector and Academia Members in the Asia-Pacific Region. As we approach the midstream of the BDT Operational Cycle 2015-2018, the Forum will focus on assessing strategic orientations that may have impact on BDT's regional work plan in the Asia-Pacific region in between World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs). In this context, RDF-ASP2016 will report on the activities of the Dubai Action Plan, with particular emphasis on the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives implemented and planned, including those self-initiated by individual members, while inviting feedback, proposals and recommendations to adjust as well as contribute to BDT's work in the Asia-Pacific region accordingly for the period 2016-2017.

Please note that all the information related to the Forum, including presentations, practical information, registration forms will be available on the ITU website at:

<http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2016/May-RDF2016/home.aspx>.

A Provisional Agenda for RDF-ASP2016 is attached (Annex 1) for your consideration. Please note that we expect active participation of your decision makers/senior representatives in the Forum. The Forum will be paperless, conducted in English and will not require any participation fees.

ITU is pleased to provide one full fellowship to one participant duly authorized by the respective ITU Administrations from Least Developed Countries and eligible Low-Income Developing Countries in the Asia-Pacific Region, subject to available budget, to facilitate their participation in the Forum. The fellowship

application form will also be available on the ITU event website above. The deadline for submission of fellowship application and online registration (available on the same event website) is on 16 May 2016.

Ms Aurora A. Rubio, Head of ITU Area Office for South East Asia (telephone +62 21 3802322, email aurora.rubio@itu.int) is at the disposal of participants who require further information and/or assistance in participating in the Forum

I also take this opportunity to inform you that DOST-ICTO, ITU and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are co-organizing the Innovative Strategies for Development Forum 2016 immediately following the RDF-ASP2016 on 8-10 June 2016. Invitation for this event will be sent separately.

I look forward to your active participation and contribution to the success of these events.

Yours faithfully,



Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex: Provisional agenda

ITU Asia Pacific Regional Development Forum 2016: *ICTs for Smart Sustainable Asia-Pacific*

6-7 June 2016
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

ANNEX 1 - DRAFT AGENDA

ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Development Forum (RDF-ASP2016) on "ICTs for Smart Sustainable Asia-Pacific" aims to provide a platform for high level dialogue between and among the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and the decision makers of the ITU Member States, Sector and Academia Members in the Asia-Pacific Region.

As we approach the midstream of the BDT Operational Cycle 2015-2018, the Forum will focus on assessing strategic orientations that may have impact on BDT's regional work plan in the Asia-Pacific region in between World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs). In this context, RDF-ASP2016 will report on the activities of the Dubai Action Plan, with particular emphasis on the following Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives (2015-2018) that have been implemented and are planned, including those self-initiated by individual members.

- *ASP RI1: Special consideration for least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific island countries, and landlocked developing countries*
- *ASP RI2: Emergency telecommunications*
- *ASP RI3: Harnessing the benefits of new technologies*
- *ASP RI4: Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband*
- *ASP RI5: Policy and regulation*

RDF-ASP 2016 will strongly encourage Memberships' feedback, partnership opportunities, proposals and recommendations to contribute to as well as adjust BDT's work in the Asia-Pacific region, as necessary, for the period 2016-2018.

6 June 2016	
09:00-09:20	Registration of participants and provision of Forum and information materials
	Welcome Remarks:
09:20-09:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Hon. Mr. Louis Casambre, Undersecretary, Department of Science and Technology, Information and Communication Technology Office, Philippines▪ Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU

Opening Remarks:

- **Hon. Mr. Mario G. Montejo, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines (TBC)**

09:50-10:15

Group Photo and Coffee Break

Session 1: WTDC14 Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives : Setting the Regional Context

Chair: Hon. Louis Casambre, Undersecretary, Information and Communication Technology Office, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines (TBC)

The Session will present and discuss the strategic outcomes achieved so far from the implementation of the activities, projects and partnerships under the ITU WTDC-14 Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives.

10:15-11:00

- **Implementing the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives 2015-2018**
Speaker: Mr. Ioane Koroivuki, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
- **Regional Initiatives Beyond 2017, World Telecommunication Development Conference and the linkage to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- **Strategic Dialogue on "Meeting ITU Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative Expectations "**

Panelists: TBD

Session 2: Innovative Approaches on Partnerships and Resource Mobilization to Meet the Objectives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives

Chair: TBD

11:00 – 12:30

This Session will focus on the overall requirements, including innovative partnerships and resource mobilization to achieve the WTDC14 objectives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives.

- **Recalling the Objectives of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives**

- Innovative Partnerships for ICT Development in the Asia-Pacific Region
- Resource Mobilization Models

12:30 - 14:00

Lunch

Session 3: ASP RI 1: Special Consideration For LDCs, SIDSs, Including Pacific Island Countries, And Landlocked Developing Countries

Chair: TBD

Session 3 will report on the details of the implementation and plans of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Special Consideration For LDCs, SIDSs, Including Pacific Island Countries, And Landlocked Developing Countries with focus on the outcomes, challenges and gaps and provide opportunity for the Membership to recommend critical inputs, particularly on potential projects, partners, funding and improving processes.

14:00–15:30

- **RI 1: Special Consideration For LDCs, SIDSs, Including Pacific Island Countries, And Landlocked Developing Countries**
- Reports on regional initiatives, activities and partnerships by regional organizations, governments, and international development agencies
- Issues, challenges, and opportunities linked to RI 1
- Panel Discussion: Proposals for Activities, Projects, Partners and Funding for RI 1

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee break

Session 4: ASP RI 2: Emergency Telecommunications

Chair: TBD

Session 4 will report on the details of the implementation and plans of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Emergency Telecommunications with focus on the outcomes, challenges and gaps and provide opportunity for the Membership to recommend critical inputs, particularly on potential projects, partners, funding and improving processes.

16:00-17:30

- **RI 2: Emergency Telecommunications**
- Reports on regional initiatives, activities and partnerships by regional organisations, governments, and international

development agencies

- Issues, challenges, and opportunities linked to RI 2
- Panel Discussion: Proposals for Activities, Projects, Partners and Funding for RI 2

7 June 2016

Session 5: Harnessing The Benefits Of New Technologies

Chair: TBD

Session 5 will report on the details of the implementation and plans of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Harnessing The Benefits Of New Technologies with focus on the outcomes, challenges and gaps and provide opportunity for the Membership to recommend critical inputs, particularly on potential projects, partners, funding and improving processes.

09:00—10:30

- **RI 3: Harnessing The Benefits Of New Technologies**
- Reports on regional initiative, activities and partnerships by regional organisations, governments, and international development agencies
- Issues, challenges, and opportunities linked to RI 3
- Panel Discussion: Proposals for Activities, Projects, Partners and

10:30-11:00

Coffee break

Session 6: Development of Broadband Access and Adoption of Broadband

Chair: TBD

Session 6 will report on the details of the implementation and plans of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Development of Broadband Access and Adoption of Broadband with focus on the outcomes, challenges and gaps and provide opportunity for the Membership to recommend critical inputs, particularly on potential projects, partners, funding and improving processes.

11:00–12:30

- **RI 4: Development of Broadband Access and Adoption of Broadband**
- Reports on regional initiative, activities and partnerships by

regional organisations, governments, and international development agencies

- Issues, challenges, and opportunities linked to RI 4
- Panel Discussion: Proposals for Activities, Projects, Partners and Funding for RI 4

12:30–14:00

Lunch

- **Session 7: Policy and Regulation**

Chair: TBD

Session 7 will report on the details of the implementation and plans of the Asia-Pacific Regional Initiative on Policy and Regulation with focus on the outcomes, challenges and gaps and provide opportunity for the Membership to recommend critical inputs, particularly on potential projects, partners, funding and improving processes.

14:00–15:30

- **RI 5: Policy and Regulation**
- Emerging Policy, Regulatory, Business and Technical Trends related to RI 5
- Reports on regional initiative, activities and partnerships by regional organisations, governments, and international development agencies linked to RI 5
- Panel Discussion: Proposals for Activities, Projects, Partners and Funding for RI 5

Session 8: Facilitating Asia-Pacific Regional Initiatives through research and capacity building

14:30-15:30

- ITU-D Study Groups
- ITU Asia-Pacific Centres of Excellence
- ITU Academia and Research Institutions
- ITU Telecom World 2016

15:30–16:00

Coffee break

16:00-16:30

Session 9: RDF 2016 Conclusions, Recommendation and Closing

- Presentation of Conclusions and Recommendations

- Closing Ceremony
 - Hon. Mario G. Montejo, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology, Republic of the Philippines
 - Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

END