



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

Ref. BDT/ROASP/2024-076

Bangkok, 02 May 2024

**ITU Academia Members in Asia and the
Pacific region**

Subject: Invitation to the 1st Meeting of the ITU Academia Informal Working Group in Asia and the Pacific

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you and your organization to join 1st Meeting of the ITU Academia Informal Working Group in Asia and the Pacific. This meeting will be held virtually on 16 May 2024, from 13:00PM – 14:30PM Bangkok time (GMT+7).

As part of the engagement with ITU academia members based in the region, ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is forming the ITU Academia Informal Working Group in Asia and the Pacific. This group will provide an opportunity to update academia members of ITU about upcoming events, projects, and activities, as well as to highlight potential partnership opportunities and modalities to deepen membership engagement with ITU.

This meeting will also provide an opportunity for academia members to meet each other virtually and allow them to foster collaboration. Finally, it will allow for academia members to express interest in joining the contact lists for the ITU Academia Informal Working Group in Asia and the Pacific.

Additional information is available in **Annex 1** to this letter. Registration is available at the following link: [register here](#). The event webpage is available at the following link: <http://itu.int/go/SCCK>.

For any additional inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Calvin Chan (calvin.chan@itu.int).

I look forward to your and your colleagues' active participation in the session.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Atsuko'.

Atsuko Okuda
Regional Director

Annex 1: Concept Note

1st Meeting of ITU Academia Informal Working Group Meeting in Asia and the Pacific (virtual)

16 May 2024
(13:00 PM – 14:30 PM, Bangkok)

1.0 Background

ITU is hosting the quadrennial [World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly \(WTSA\)](#) scheduled in Delhi, India, from 15-24 October 2024. As the flagship conference of ITU's standardization (ITU-T) sector, WTSA defines the general policy for the ITU-T Sector, establishes the study groups, approves their expected work programme for the next four-year period, and appoints chairmen and vice-chairmen.

As part of WTSA 2024, a number of related events will be held that may be of interest to ITU's academia members in the Asia-Pacific region. This includes:

- [5th Global Standards Symposium](#), 14 October 2024
- [Network of Women for WTSA-24](#), 17 October 2024
- AI for Good, Impact India, 18 October 2024
- [ITU Kaleidoscope](#), 21 – 23 October 2024
- UN Day, 24 October 2024

Of note is the ITU Kaleidoscope event from 21-23 October 2024. The ***Kaleidoscope 2024 - Innovation and digital transformation for a sustainable world*** is the fifteenth in a series of peer-reviewed academic conferences organized by ITU to bring together a wide range of views from universities, industry and research institutions. The aim of Kaleidoscope is to foster collaboration and discussion on emerging trends in technologies for a digital and sustainable transformation that can benefit humanity.

The theme of the fifteenth edition of the ITU Kaleidoscope academic conference captures the ongoing global efforts to harness the power of technology for positive and sustainable change.

Kaleidoscope 2024 calls for original, academic papers exploring technological innovation and digital transformation's implications for policy, regulation, legal and ethical frameworks, the economy, and society. Emphasis is placed on how international ICT standards contribute to achieving the UN SDGs.

In this context and building on Kaleidoscope 2024, there is a need to deepen the collaboration between ITU Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and ITU academia members and stakeholders. To close the digital divide, it is required to leverage both academia's cutting-edge research opportunities from faculty and researchers, as well as the innovation of youth and students in advancing digital development.

Additionally, under the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D), a number of upcoming activities and new projects are being organized at the global and regional levels that can harness academia participation. This includes (but is not limited to):

- [Telecommunication Development Advisory Group](#) from 20-23 May in Geneva
- [Global Symposium of Regulators 2024](#) from 1-4 July, in Kampala, Uganda
- [Industry Advisory Group on Development Issues](#) (IAGDI) and Chief Regulatory Officers meeting (IAGDI-CRO), on 2 July in Kampala, Uganda.
- [ITU-D Study Group Meetings](#)
- [Partner2Connect National Roundtable Cambodia](#) from 8-9 July in Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Therefore, it is proposed to convene *1st Meeting of ITU Academia Informal Working Group Meeting in Asia and the Pacific* to highlight potential partnerships linked to the work of the ITU throughout Asia-Pacific. Specific partnership modalities could include (but are not limited to):

- Creating a youth competition for ITU Academia member students
- Partnering with ITU Academia to develop courses, including through ITU's Academy platform (<https://academy.itu.int/>)
- Partnership modalities with ITU Regional Office, including research and internship opportunities.

2.0 Meeting objectives

This meeting is being organized to update the ITU academia members about upcoming events, projects, and potential academia collaboration with ITU Regional Office.

The meeting will also allow for the Academia Informal Working Group contact lists to be refreshed should there be interest in joining this meeting.

3.0 Draft agenda

13:00 – 13:15	Welcome remarks Atsuko Okuda, Regional Director, ITU Regional Office for Asia-Pacific Introduction by participants
13:15 – 13:45	Presentation by ITU
13:45 – 14:25	Open Discussion
14:25 – 14:30	Way forward and closing

4.0 Target audience

- ITU Academia Members in the Asia-Pacific region