# ITU Regional Standardization Forum for Asia-Pacific

**25 August 2014**
**Bangkok, Thailand**

## Forum Outcome

The ITU Regional Standardization Forum for Asia-Pacific was successfully held on 25 August 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. The Forum, which was organized in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Telecommunity and Telecommunications Technology Association (TTA), Republic of Korea was attended by 116 participants from 26 countries. Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director, Telecommunication Standardisation Bureau (ITU), Mr. Toshiyuki Yamada, Secretary General (APT) and Mr. Chasik Leem, President (TTA) gave their remarks during the opening session.

A number of developing countries (Brunei, India, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka) shared their challenges and endeavours. Expert from TTA (Republic of Korea) shared their practices and experiences in supporting the developing countries. A detailed case of collaboration with AITI in Brunei was presented. The ITU presented the National Standardization Secretariat Guidelines to the Members (available at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/gap/Documents/NSSGuidelines.pdf).

The opening remarks and presentation from sessions is available at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/Workshops-and-Seminars/bsg/082014/Pages/Programme.aspx.

**Conclusion**

The Forum recognized that international standardization has an important role in sustainable socio-economic development, and disaster relief and resilience in the region; and consequently the need to contribute and gain from standardization efforts in the ITU, APT, IEEE, other SDOs was recognized.

The participants supported the ITU initiative of the National Standardization Secretariat (NSS) Guidelines, appreciated the options provided corresponding to progressive development stages of countries in their standardization capability and discussed the possible implementation at their national level. Several countries called for ITU assistance in initiating and supporting this endeavor at national level through country based assessment advisory, training, etc.

In addition, participants to this forum identified the following challenges faced by developing countries that are not into equipment manufacturing:

- Need to enhance awareness amongst ICT stakeholders on the importance of standardization
  Lack of understanding that the return on investment in standardization is in terms of social and economic benefit and smart governance,
- Need for appropriate policy and regulation,
- Lack of institutional and collaboration framework at national level,
- Need to improve the quality and speed of national standardization,
- Presence of language barriers,
- Lack of human and financial resources,
- Lack of monitoring and enforcement mechanisms including conformance testing,
- More support from industry and private sector,
- New challenges coming from technological advances such as OTT to regulate vertical industry sectors beyond the ICT sector,
- Need for a collaborative framework for small countries with limited resources (e.g. SIDSs).

Participants expressed their appreciation to APT and ITU for organizing the event and looked forward to their further collaboration in addressing the identified issues.